

ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING AT ST PETERS, ST ALBANS ON SATURDAY 18th JANUARY 1992

Binging took place at St Peters from 3-30 to 5pm. The vicar conducted Evensong, and this was followed by a hot tea in the Church Hall. The Annual District Meeting was chaired by the Association Treasurer, T. Groom, proposed Mrs M.A. Coburn seconded G. Penney.

Apologies for Absence were received from B. Taylor and Mrs. E. Pocock.

There had been no loss of members by death during the last year.

The Minutes of the last Annual District Meeting were read. There were no matters arising.

Election of new members

The following new members were elected

Jo Pavey as a full member from St Stephens, proposed J Magne seconded Mrs J. Robertson

From the Abbey,

as probationary members, proposed G Penney, seconded Mrs J. Penney

Simon Bates

Miranda Bates

Grace Fitzsimmons

Frances Leonard

Duncan Patterson

Elizabeth Penney

transfer of Stephen Penney from probationary to full member proposed G Penney seconded Mrs J Penney

Susan Hyde, full member from Lemsford proposed G Dodds seconded J Magne

James Richardson, probationary member from Hatfield, proposed Mrs A Saunders seconded S Saunders

Rachel Taylor of Haspenden from probationary to full member proposed Mrs M.A. Coburn seconded C Pocock

William Coates of Welwyn as probationary member proposed P. Montgomery seconded G. Penney

proposed as full member from St Michaels by J. Hughes d'Aem seconded Mrs C. Hughes d'Aem

Richard Morton

Richard Maynard

The following helpful election, prior to meals, of 3 N.R.U.s was ratified
Morris F Edwards of Birmingham Cathedral
A. John Illingworth of Monks Kirby
Ivan J Ludbrook of Cambridge
all proposed by J. Magne and seconded by Miss J. Robotham.

Secretary's Report.

The Secretary's Report was read. S. Saunders proposed and J. Spreadbury seconded that it be accepted and this was carried.

Statement of Accounts.

The accounts were presented to the meeting. The secretary reported that these had been audited by the District Auditor. She proposed a vote of thanks to the Auditor for the speed and efficiency with which she had carried out the audit.

Mrs S. Patterson proposed and Revd C Rengard seconded that the Association Account be accepted and this was carried.

Mrs M A Coburn proposed and S Saunders seconded that the Voluntary Bell Fund Account be accepted and this was carried.

G. Penney proposed and Revd C Rengard seconded that the District Fund Account be accepted and this was carried.

Election of Officers

Ringling Master Mrs S. Patterson was proposed by Ms E Drummond-Tyler and seconded by G. Penney who thanked her for all that she had done during the year. There being no other nomination, she was duly elected.

District Secretary Mrs E Drummond-Tyler was proposed by Mrs S Patterson and seconded by G. Beynon. There being no other nomination, she was duly elected.

Association Committee Rep Miss C Nicholson was proposed by Mrs A Saunders and seconded by B. Duke. Mrs S. Patterson said that she wished to

withdraw her nomination. There being no other nominations, Miss C. Michelson was duly elected.
Deputy Assoc. Secy. C. Pocock was proposed by Mrs S. Patterson and seconded by J. Spreadbury. There being no other proposition he was duly elected.

Committee Members The following were proposed by J. J. Ford and seconded by Mrs E. Drummond-Tyler
S. Saunders
J. Spreadbury
D. Baulger
G. Regnon
B. Duke

The following were proposed by Mrs E. Drummond-Tyler and seconded by P. Montgomery
Miss S. Coakes
Mrs J. Coakes

All were elected

Voluntary Bell Fund Trustees

S. Saunders proposed and Mrs S. Patterson seconded that Mrs M. A. Coburn and C. Pocock be re-elected. There being no other nominations, this was carried.

Peal Book Writer

A. Jeffe proposed and G. Dodds seconded that D. Drummond-Tyler be re-elected. There being no other nominations, this was carried. The Secretary reported that the 1990 peals had been written up.

Hon. Auditor

G. Penney proposed and Mrs M. A. Coburn seconded that Mrs S. Edmondson be re-elected. There being no other nominations, this was carried.

Request for Grant from the District Bell Fund.

C. Pocock stated that Barnet were hoping to have their bells rehung, including a substantial amount of new fittings, during 1992 in time for the centenary of the installation and dedication of the present ring. They had received a quote from Taylor of just over £28½k, but hoped to reduce this a little by doing some of the work themselves. They had written to request a grant from the District Bell Fund. C Pocock proposed that a grant of £400 be given upon successful completion of the work, which was seconded by Mrs M.A Coburn and carried by the meeting.

Proposal to transfer money from District to Association Bell Fund.

S Saunders proposed and Mrs S Patterson seconded that the excess above a certain sum of money in the District Bell Fund be donated to the Association Bell Fund on an annual basis, and that this cut-off sum be decided each year at the AGM. This proposition was then carried by the meeting.

The meeting then went on to decide what the cut-off sum should be this year, having ^{taking into account} been reminded that ~~was~~ the grant to Barnet that had just been agreed, the amount available for distribution from the District Bell Fund was now £506.28. C Pocock proposed and Mrs M.A Coburn seconded that £600 be the cut-off sum this year and this was carried by the meeting.

1992 District Programme.

The secretary stated that because so many towers had not yet replied as to whether the District could visit them during the year, the programme cover covered only the first few months of the year. A card covering the entire year would be prepared in time for the April meeting.

G. Penney said that at the last few learners practices there had been so many learners present that he had found that it had not been possible to give each of them as much ringing as he would have liked in the two hours and suggested that a second learners' practice be held on the same day in the afternoon with basic learners at the morning session and more advanced at the afternoon. He asked the committee to give it some thought and perhaps arrange for such meetings during 1992.

Mrs F Drummond-Tyler said that the committee had anticipated G. Penney's suggestion and had given it some thought at their committee meeting earlier that day. Whilst not wishing to discourage the new learners' enthusiasm from experience they had found that attendance at learners' practices had peaked for two or three months before only to drop to a handful at the next and together with the difficulty in finding enough experienced ringers to help at these practices they thought it a little premature to start arranging afternoon sessions.

S. Saunders pointed out that learners should be encouraged to attend District meetings as well as the learners' practices. There was then a general discussion on learners' practice with some people stating that they found it easier to attempt something new at a learners practice rather than a District Meeting, and others stressing that District meetings were there to cater for all ringers. The committee agreed to consider learners' practices at their next meeting.

Mrs F Drummond-Tyler said that as there had been fewer people at the last Bon Dance than in previous years, perhaps it was time for a change this year and proposed that this year's social be a quiz evening. This was accepted by the meeting.

Date and Place of next ADM.

There was no definite invitation from any tower to host the next ADM so it was left to the committee to make the necessary arrangements.

Date and Place of next District Meetings.

The next District meeting would be at S. Hyman ^{on 15th February} with ringers from 7 to 8-30pm. As a trial the February ringers were in the evening with the March ringers reverting to the winter time of afternoon. The next learners' practice would be at North Hyman on February 1st.

Any Other Business

B. Duke announced that St Peter's had a provisional date of the autumn with the founders for the work on their bells with the earlier completion

date being Easter 1993. They had a firm quote of £140k and had raised about £75k so far.

The secretary asked for people to volunteer their assistance at the Leazes Practices.

The draw for the 100 Club took place and was won by R Atkins from Barkway with number 15.

J J Ford proposed a vote of thanks to the vicar for the use of the bells and for taking the service, to the organist for playing and to the major of St Peter's for providing such a good tea.

There being no other business, the meeting was declared closed.

There was evening ringing on the 10 bells to allow everyone an opportunity to ring before the bells were taken out.

[Signature]

16.1.92