

Trustees' Report for 2024

2024 Trustees' Report Contents

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1 Highlights of the Year

2024 has seen the membership remain around the level of last year, but up slightly, including the increase of junior members, the total this year is just below 1,200. We noted in 2020 that there was a potential risk of members not renewing their membership due to Covid-19. For the previous 20 years it has been either consistently above 1,300 or for three of those years in the high to mid-1,200s. The statistics show that the membership is slightly recovering, but it is taking time, so let's carry on with renewed effort and encouragement and see its continued increase in the next few years.

Two Management Committee meetings have been held in-person over the course of 2024. We have continued to adopt and embrace new technology and now hold one of our regular MC meetings on Zoom. Both types of meeting medium allow all members to express their views and help shape the Association's direction.

As ever, it is the enormously impactful work done by all within the Association's Branches that binds our ringing community and upholds our collective aims for the Association.

This year has seen 57 peals rung for the Association, slightly down on previous years' performances. Within the G&B, this can be attributed in part to a reduction in prolific organisers and conductors, as well as an increasing number of peals rung by members now being attributed to other societies. There have still been a number of NRLMs elected this year, and many of the Association's keener peal ringers have seen no discernible drop in their G&B peal numbers. It remains to be seen whether peal numbers can return to their pre-Covid levels.

Over the last twenty years we have managed to give grants appropriate to our BRF income. The list of potential projects - see below in section 2.1 - suggests that even with several major projects we will be able to continue to follow the policy of being able to offer up to 20% grants towards eligible work (see note 1 to the accounts).

The Central Council Representatives attended the Central Council of Church Bellringers AGM weekend in September this year and we were informed about the Council's Ringing 2030 initiative which will concentrate on providing a national recruitment campaign to help all Associations and Societies in recruiting new ringers, as an association we must prepare ourselves and be ready to turn this initiative into new ringers for the exercise, there will be more about this as time goes on.

We still need to continue the effort to get more members to sign up to Gift Aid; this is a

useful source of income to the BRF that does not impact you as members if you pay income tax. Please contact the Association Treasurer for details on how to sign up for Gift Aid.

2. Review of Activities

2.1 Bell Repair Grants

	<u>Tower</u>	<u>£</u>	
Twelve grants were paid in the year:	Norton	14,969	rehang bells
	Staunton (Gloucester)	12,465	refurbish bells and frame & training bell
	Ashchurch	9,568	rehang and retune eight bells
	Cirencester St John Bapt	5,124	install external sound control
	Corse	3,579	overhaul of bells
	Hartpury	2,527	welding repairs to three bells
	Hardwicke	2,095	replace gudgeons
	Longhope	1,665	dismantle and reinstate for tower repairs
	Syston	1,475	replace cracked bell
	Winchcombe	472	clappers, pulleys and oddstruckness
	Gloucester St Mary de Crypt	414	installation of simulator
	Elmore	105	weatherproofing and paint bell frame
		<u>54,458</u>	
Four other grants were approved in 2024	Dymock	4,955	replace cracked headstocks; tune bells
	Minety	604	replace loose gudgeon
	Bisley	282	rebush clappers, replace pulley sheaves
	Stroud ¹	324	replace 9 th and tenor clappers
		<u>6,165</u>	
	¹ subject to approval of Faculty		

The previously approved grant of £23,000 to Ruardean is withdrawn as the work is now unlikely to progress.

The following additional grants were approved by the Branches:	Syston	1,475
	Winchcombe	250
	Charlton	100
	Chippenham St Paul	800
	Dymock	750
	Hardwicke	200
	Gloucester St Mary de Crypt	200
	Bisley	253
		<u>4,028</u>

The below have been identified as potential future projects seeking a grant from the Association; as it is unlikely that all will proceed it is anticipated that grant awards will remain at 20% of eligible cost.

Branch	Tower	Description	Eligible Cost £	Grant at 20%	Probability
Bristol	St Thomas	Rehang 7 th and tenor	5,000	1,000	M
Bristol	Southville	Complete rehang and recast	200,000	40,000	H
Cheltenham	Cowley	Rehang in new frame and fittings	100,000	20,000	L
Forest	Bromsberrow	Rehang with new fittings	60,000	12,000	H
N Cotswold	Great Rissington	Tenor clapper	530	106	H
			<u>365,530</u>	<u>73,106</u>	

2.2 Training

In 2024 the Spring Training day was organised by Roger Haynes, while the Autumn Training

Day was organised by Bob Blanden.

The Spring Training day concentrated on the simpler activities , bell handling and elementary method learning and ringing, with six courses being run during the day. With tutors and students going directly to the towers. There were either 5 or 6 students on each course, depending on the demand.

The Autumn Training Day had several course subjects on offer, with tutors, helpers, and students going directly to their tower. This was to reduce travelling and time, which seems to work well, but changes will be made for the Spring Training so that all groups will meet up at the end of the day, as participants had said that they missed that opportunity to share experiences. The number of students was held to 4 per course, which the students welcomed by getting more rope time. Though, some course options were not run, due to lack of applicants.

The four courses that took place on the Autumn Training day were: Beyond Bob Doubles which was led by Sarah Ewbank, held at North Cerney and Rendcomb. Cambridge Surprise Minor, led by Stuart Tomlinson, held at Elkstone and Brimpsfield. Stedman Triples, led by Dick Gray and held at Malmesbury and Surprise Major led by Jason Carter held at Christ Church, Swindon, with both of the last two being rung using Simulators, which avoids the need to travel between towers, and does not disturb the neighbours with an extra 4 hours of ringing, certainly a consideration that needs to be thought about.

The feedback from all students was very positive, we are very grateful to the tutors and helpers for their time and all the towers for the use of their bells.

2.3 Penn Trophy

Bisley hosted the 8 bell competition, for Major methods this year. The judge Robin Walker placed the bands as follows:

1st and the winner of the Penn Trophy – Swindon Branch, 2nd and the winner of The Chairmans Baldrick – Tewkesbury Branch, 3rd Stroud Branch, 4th Cirencester Branch, 5th Bristol Rural Branch, 6th Chippenham Branch, 7th Cheltenham Branch and 8th Wotton under Edge Branch

2.4 Croome Trophy

Minchinhampton hosted the 6 bell competition. The judge Isaac O'Shea placed the bands as follows:

1st and the Winner of the Croome Trophy – Tewkesbury Abbey (Tewkesbury Branch), 2nd and winners of The Great Peter Trophy – Cirencester (Cirencester Branch), 3rd Purton (Swindon Branch), 4th Minster (Cheltenham Branch), 5th Coalpit Heath (Bristol Rural Branch), 6th Dursley (Wotton under Edge Branch) 7th and awarded a Ringing Master's Clapper - Colerne (Chippenham Branch), 8th Barnwood (Gloucester Branch) 9th Woodchester (Stroud Branch) and 10th and awarded a Ringing Master's Clapper- Longborough (North Cotswold Branch)

2.5 Young Ringers

The G&B Youth Team is led by Ian and Carole Bucknell and is supported both morally and practically by all the current Association Officers.

The Youth Team met for monthly practices throughout the year whilst Bridget Lazenby arranged a day's ringing in the Forest of Dean on Easter Monday. The Association is grateful for the support of the following towers which hosted Youth Team ringing events during the year: Berkeley, Leonard Stanley, St Mark's Cheltenham, Horsley, Dursley, Coalpit Heath, Newnham-on-Severn, Lydney, St Briavels, Littledean, Mitcheldean, Mangotsfield, Kemble, Cirencester, Leckhampton and Barnwood.

Having received financial support from the Association, the G&B Youth Team took part in the RWNYS in London in July 2024 and, in the latter half of the year, began preparing for the 2025 contest which is to be hosted by Birmingham. The G&B is grateful for the sponsorship of the Youth Team by Avon Ropes Ltd.

It is causing great thought amongst the leaders of the Youth Team that, measured as a percentage of the total, the membership of the G&B by young ringers continues to fall, (though in raw numbers it has taken a slight rise this year) and there are few signs that this is likely to change in the near future. It is with great regret that we have to report that the

majority of towers in the Association do not appear to be actively recruiting and teaching young people to ring. We must try to find a way to reverse this trend if ringing is to be passed on to the next generation.

2.6 **Peal & Quarter Peal Festival**

Two peals and 32 quarter peals were submitted to Bellboard linked to this event, which ran for the month of October.

2.7 **Firsts Fortnight**

33 “firsts” by 21 members were recorded on the Association’s website

2.8 **Achievement of the Year Competition**

The Achievement of the Year competition seeks to recognise achievements within the Association during the year, and can be awarded to a person, a group, a tower, a group of towers, or a whole Branch. Entries are invited and the winner is decided by a vote at the annual Branch Officers Meeting.

For 2024 the theme was “Anything that has happened in your Branch that is worthy of recognition throughout the Association”.

Six entries were received and at the AGM in April the winner Cheltenham Branch was presented with the Bliss Trophy for their entry on how they have gone about organising training in the Branch and the runner up - Pebworth tower in the North Cotswold Branch - received the Littledean and Purton Trophy for their entry on setting up part of their website as dedicated to training material.

All of the entries are available to view on the Association website.

2.9 **Belfry Advisers**

During the last year, the Belfry Advisers have checked completed projects at Ashchurch, Cirencester, Corse, Priors Norton, Staunton, Syston and Bisley.

In addition advice, assistance and/or reports has been requested and provided at Berkeley, Bisley, Brislington, Dauntsey, Deerhurst, Ebrington, Great Somerford, Iron Acton, Lower Slaughter, Maisemore, Minchinhampton, Minsterworth, Northleach, North Nibley, Oaksey, Oddington, St Briavels, Sherborne, Slimbridge, Stone, Westcote and Yate. Advice has also been provided in pubs for a number of towers in the South Gloucestershire area.

Any tower requiring advice on their bell installation, including maintenance advice, please contact one of the Bell Advisers listed in the front of the Report

2.10 **Peals**

The Peal Secretary’s report appears later in this Report followed by details of the 57 peals rung this year by the Association and the peal compositions first rung in 2024.

2.11 **Review of Financial Activities**

Summary of the year to 31 October 2024:

	Balances brought forward	Surplus/ (Deficit) for year	Transfers between Funds	Balances carried forward
	£	£	£	£
Belfry Repair Fund	136,629	(27,951)	772	109,450
General Fund	2,140	757	(772)	2,125
Branches	18,205	(3,105)		15,100
	156,974	(30,299)	0	126,675

Total income from subscriptions was £16,613, an increase of £559 from 2023 and reflects the increase in membership from 1,155 to 1,195.

Interest and investment income increased again this year, with total other income remaining

consistent with 2023.

Grant payments increased considerably this year – from £20k in 2022 and £6k in 2023 – to £61k as projects re-started following Covid. However at year end just £8k remained awarded but not paid and potential large projects in the pipeline but not yet awarded grants appear to be reducing as parishes review their priorities in times of financial constraint. It is anticipated that the current 20% contribution towards eligible expenditure will be sustainable for the near future. The Branches continue to hold funds that should be used to support local projects.

Administrative expenses remain low, mainly insurance and printing of the Annual Report.

The Management Committee considers that there are no uncertainties regarding the Association continuing as a going concern.

2.12 Membership Statistics

	%Junior	Senior	Junior	Retired ¹	Associate	HLM	TOTAL	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Bristol	24%	84	27				111	106	101	90	122	111
Bristol Rural	9%	115	11		2	1	129	127	134	155	158	157
Cheltenham	3%	110	4			1	115	121	124	128	139	139
Chippenham	3%	113	4			1	118	104	113	104	119	123
Cirencester	6%	106	7			1	114	118	117	114	119	131
Forest	4%	78	3			1	82	76	59	106	101	106
Gloucester	10%	52	6		2	2	62	60	43	57	79	74
North Cotswold	0%	46					46	47	21	47	48	51
Stroud	10%	100	11			2	113	105	92	105	108	98
Swindon	3%	129	4		1		134	123	118	110	105	115
Tewkesbury	3%	69	2				71	71	69	73	75	78
Wotton-under-Edge	3%	96	3			1	100	97	100	98	110	117
Total for 2024	7%	1098	82		5	10	1195	1155	1091	1187	1283	1300
2023	6%	1059	75	1	9	11	1155					
2022	7%	812	71	195	2	11	1091					
2021	6%	849	76	249	3	10	1187					
2020	7%	892	94	283	3	11	1283					
2019	7%	915	89	279	6	11	1300					
2014 (10 years ago)	9%	699	121	499	6	15	1340					
2004 (20 years ago)	12%	855	164	360	3	23	1405					
1994 (30 years ago)	16%	765	183	160	9	15	1132					
1984 (40 years ago)	22%	772	235		12	18	1047					
1974 (50 years ago)	22%	621	182		21		824					
1924 (100 years ago)							721					

¹ concession rate for retired members withdrawn from 2023

Membership in 2024 has increased slightly though the movement up or down does vary between the Branches. Junior membership increased by seven to the highest level since 2020, which is encouraging, but again with some Branches showing a very healthy proportion offset by other Branches having few or none.

2.13 Library

There were two enquiries to the Library during the year. A CD was received from Andrew Bull containing PDF versions of the Annual Reports for the years 1887-2022

2.14 Handbells

The handbells have not been used at all during 2024. They can be borrowed by any member or Branch of the Association. Please contact the Handbell Steward.

3. Legal & Administrative Information

3.1 Title of the Charity

The Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers. - Charity number 281431

3.2 The Governing Instrument of the Association

The Rules of the Association adopted by the AGM April 1965, last amended April 2019

3.3 Beneficial Area

The Dioceses of Gloucester and Bristol

3.4 Trustees

The Trustees of the charity are the members of the Management Committee and comprise:
(a) the Ringing Master, Chair, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Peal Secretary,
(b) the Representatives on the Central Council and
(c) the Branch Management Committee Representatives (MC Reps).

Trustees (a & b) are elected by the members of the Association at the Association AGM and are listed on the title page. Trustees (c) are elected by their respective Branch AGMs and are listed in the Branch information pages

3.5 Principal Addresses

Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Fiona Hartley, 45 Round Barrow Close, Colerne, Chippenham. SN14 8EF
Hon. Treasurer, Mrs Bridget Lazenby, 38 Ampney Crucis, Cirencester. GL7 5SF

3.6 Principal Agents and Advisers

The Association's Banker is: Lloyds Bank, Swindon Branch, 5 High Street, Swindon, SN1 3EN
The Association's independent examiners are:

Mr C Woodd MA FIA, 3 The Paddocks, Baunton, Cirencester, GL7 7DL, and
Mrs M Harris, 3 Furzey Hill Cottage, Meysey Hampton, Cirencester, GL7 5LG

3.7 Investment and Borrowing Powers

The Association has no borrowing powers. Rule 7.iv gives, by implication, the Management Committee authority to invest surplus funds.

3.8 Remuneration of Trustees

No remuneration was paid to any Trustees

3.9 Risk Assessment

The Trustees have identified and reviewed the major risks to which they believe the Association may be exposed and have taken steps to minimise and manage those risks.

3.10 Organisation

The Association is organised into twelve Branches covering the two Dioceses. The Branches have their own officers responsible for encouraging good ringing in the churches with bells within their area and working within the charitable objectives of the Association as a whole. The Management Committee, which has three meetings each year, is responsible to the members, through the AGM, for the general running of the Association. The Branches are represented on the Management Committee.

The Association is affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

4 Aims and Public Benefit

4.1 Objectives of the Association

The objectives of the Association are as set out in Rule 2:

- 1 To promote the ringing of bells for Divine Service
- 2 To practise ringing to obtain a higher standard of ringing
- 3 To educate the public in the art and science of change ringing
- 4 To provide financial assistance by way of grants to affiliated church authorities incurring expenditure on the provision, maintenance or improvement of their bells and bell installations.

In furtherance of the first two of these objectives the Association organises and encourages training sessions and bell ringing competitions. The main Association-level training is the annual Spring training day using reasonably central towers. There is a second Autumn training day again using reasonably central towers. Training at the Branch level is both ongoing and based on specific training days.

Grants to approved belfry repair and improvement projects are available from the Belfry Repair Fund. Applications are considered at the two main Management Committee meetings, in the spring and autumn. The Association Belfry Advisers are available to discuss the condition of bells and their fittings.

4.2 Public Benefit Statement

Our Objects and Aims are focused towards two things. First, the preservation of the UK tradition and heritage of change ringing, and second, the support of Christian worship by promoting the ringing of bells for Divine Service. We achieve this by:

- i educating the public about change ringing;
- ii training and developing change ringers from all walks of society;
- iii practising the art of change ringing to improve standards;
- iv providing financial support for belfry repair and restoration.

The public benefits through the preservation of a uniquely UK tradition and heritage, and because we assist them to participate in an inclusive activity that significantly benefits them both physically and mentally.

The Trustees paid due regard to the Commission's guidance on public benefit in producing this statement.

Approved by the Management Committee on 25 January 2025, and signed on its behalf by

R W Haynes (Chair)

B L Lazenby (Hon Treasurer)

Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers
Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31 October 2024

		2024			2023		
		Association	Branches	Total	Association	Branches	Total
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
Subscriptions	2	14,934	1,679	16,613	14,435	1,619	16,054
Gift Aid Tax Refund	3	1,822	45	1,867	1,829	231	2,060
Affiliation Fees		4,590		4,590	4,890		4,890
Interest & Investment Income	4	4,855	185	5,040	3,833	126	3,959
Donations & Legacies		385	174	559	250	355	605
Non Resident Life Members		70		70	70		70
Peal Fees		240		240	260		260
Training Day		312		312	270		270
Report Adverts and Sales		114		114	150		150
Fundraising			1,221	1,221		1,223	1,223
Meetings, Outings & Social			386	386			0
Miscellaneous		3	224	227	6		6
Total Income		27,325	3,914	31,239	25,993	3,554	29,547
Expenditure							
Grants Paid	8	54,458	6,378	60,836	3,710	2,319	6,029
Annual Report - (420) (2023- 500)		499		499	670		670
Insurance		572		572	566		566
Central Council		271		271	258		258
Training Days		198		198			0
Meetings & Social		140	123	263	100	280	380
RWNYC		350		350	50		50
Donations			95	95		225	225
Depreciation of assets	5		62	62		511	511
Miscellaneous		46	361	407	40	411	451
Total Expenditure		56,534	7,019	63,553	5,394	3,746	9,140
Surplus/(Deficit) before Other Gains		(29,209)	(3,105)	(32,314)	20,599	(192)	20,407
Gain/(Loss) on Investments	4	2,015		2,015	(396)		(396)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(27,194)	(3,105)	(30,299)	20,203	(192)	20,011
Represented by							
Restricted Belfry Repair Fund	1	(27,951)		(27,951)	19,554		19,554
Unrestricted General Fund	1	757	(3,105)	(2,348)	649	(192)	457
		(27,194)	(3,105)	(30,299)	20,203	(192)	20,011

Summary of Fund Movements in the year to 31 October 2024

	Note	Balances Brought Forward £	Income			Surplus/ (Deficit) per SoFA £	Transfers between Funds £	Balances Carried Forward £
			£	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £			
Restricted Fund	6&7	136,629	25,040	(55,006)	2,015	(27,951)	772	109,450
Unrestricted Fund	6&7	2,140	2,285	(1,528)		757	(772)	2,125
Branches		18,205	3,914	(7,019)		(3,105)		15,100
		156,974	31,239	(63,553)	2,015	(30,299)	0	126,675

The Notes form part of these accounts

Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers
Balance Sheet at 31 October 2024

		2024				2023		
	Notes	Association £	Branches £	Total £		Association £	Branches £	Total £
Investments								
Charifund	4	28,824		28,824		26,809		26,809
Current Assets								
Badges, Books and Other Assets	5	244	213	457		260	275	535
Other Debtors and Prepayments		5,210	80	5,290		4,715	30	4,745
CBF & Other Investment Accounts		52,102	4,278	56,380		69,329	9,069	78,398
Bank Deposit Accounts		2,706		2,706		17,675		17,675
Bank Current Accounts & Cash		22,489	10,976	33,465		19,981	10,886	30,867
Total Current Assets		82,751	15,547	98,298		111,960	20,260	132,220
Current Liabilities								
Due to Association		0	212	212		0	2,030	2,030
Other Creditors		0	235	235		0	25	25
Total Current Liabilities		0	447	447		0	2,055	2,055
Total Net Assets		111,575	15,100	126,675		138,769	18,205	156,974
Represented by:								
Restricted Fund		109,450		109,450		136,629		136,629
Unrestricted Fund		2,125	15,100	17,225		2,140	18,205	20,345
		111,575	15,100	126,675		138,769	18,205	156,974

The Notes form part of these accounts

Approved by the Management Committee on 25 January 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

R W Haynes (Chairman)

Mrs B L Lazenby (Hon Treasurer)

Branch Accounts																
Income & Expenditure Account																
	Note	Bristol	Bristol Rural	Cheltenham	Chippenham	Cirencester	Forest	Gloucester	North Cotswold	Stroud	Swindon	Tewkesbury	Wotton-under-Edge	Total	2023	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Income																
Subscriptions		139	179	167	162	163	120	82	69	150	196	104	148	1,679	1,619	
Donations		15	18			5	42			30		64		174	355	
Tax Refund												45		45	231	
Interest		24	34			6	27	5	9	55			25	185	126	
Fundraising			265		166					422			368	1,221	1,223	
Meetings, Outings & Social			110				140	50		20	66			386	0	
Miscellaneous			32			45	76				60		11	224	0	
Total Income		178	638	167	328	219	405	137	78	677	322	213	552	3,914	3,554	
Expenditure																
Grants Paid	8		1,475	250	500		3,500	400		253				6,378	2,319	
Donations					40							55		95	225	
Meetings & Social Activities						80			27			16		123	280	
Depreciation	5												62	62	511	
Miscellaneous			87	28					122	72		52		361	411	
Total Expenditure		0	1,562	278	540	80	3,500	400	149	325	0	123	62	7,019	3,746	
Surplus/(Deficit) for year		178	(924)	(111)	(212)	139	(3,095)	(263)	(71)	352	322	90	490	(3,105)	(192)	
Balance at 1 November 2022		2,141	3,073	359	945	654	5,225	763	376	1,863	737	477	1,592	18,205	18,397	
Balance at 31 October 2023		2,319	2,149	248	733	793	2,130	500	305	2,215	1,059	567	2,082	15,100	18,205	
Balance Sheet																
Assets																
CBF & Other Investment Accounts			2,008			510		152	185	1,423				4,278	9,069	
Stocks of Books and Other Assets			38				75	50				50		213	275	
Debtors & Prepayments					80									80	30	
Bank and Cash		2,319	103	251	721	300	2,162	441	216	792	1,072	517	2,082	10,976	10,886	
		2,319	2,149	251	801	810	2,237	643	401	2,215	1,072	567	2,082	15,547	20,260	
Less Liabilities																
Due to Association				3	68	2	2	143	(4)		13		(15)	212	2,030	
2025 Subscriptions						15	105		100				15	235	15	
Miscellaneous creditors														0	10	
Net Assets		2,319	2,149	248	733	793	2,130	500	305	2,215	1,059	567	2,082	15,100	18,205	
Represented by:																
Bell Projects Fund	8				400		1,300	300						2,000	4,350	
General Fund		2,319	2,149	248	333	793	830	200	305	2,215	1,059	567	2,082	13,100	13,855	
		2,319	2,149	248	733	793	2,130	500	305	2,215	1,059	567	2,082	15,100	18,205	

The Notes form part of these accounts

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

These Financial Statements are prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Accounting and Reporting by Charities and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standards (FRS 102). The Financial Statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

The Belfry Repair Fund (Restricted) exists to provide grants towards repairs, renovations (excluding ropes) or augmentations of existing rings of bells, installation of new rings and similar purposes, and to provide instruction. The fund is supported by donations and affiliation fees and a proportion of members' subscriptions, as determined by the Annual General Meeting (Rule 20)

The General Management Fund (Unrestricted) exists to cover the general management expenses of the Association. The Management Committee agreed in 2002 that it is prudent to maintain the fund at 1 1/3 of average annual expenditure with any excess transferred to the Belfry Repair Fund.

Branch Funds exist to cover the general running expenses of the Branches and to support belfry repair projects in their area

Grants

Grant applications are approved at a percentage of eligible expenditure; such approval is initially valid for two years. Grants are paid after completion and inspection of the project works by an Association Belfry Advisor, at the same percentage of eligible expenditure incurred up to a maximum of the approved grant. Grants that are approved but not yet payable are not recognised as commitments as they are contingent on third party support. Details are provided in Note 8

2 Subscriptions

	2024				2023	
	Rate	To Belfry Repair Fund	No	£	No	£
Senior & Retired	£15	£12	1087	16,305	1023	15,345
Junior	£2.50	£1.50	78	195	75	187
Retired (Concession) - withdrawn from 2023	£10	£9	0	0	1	10
Associate	£10	£9	5	50	9	90
HLM	£0		10	0	10	0
Unpaid			15	0	36	0
Arrears				63		422
Total			<u>1,195</u>	<u>16,613</u>	<u>1,154</u>	<u>16,054</u>
Retained by Branches				<u>1,679</u>		<u>1,619</u>
Association				<u>14,934</u>		<u>14,435</u>
Allocated to-	<u>Note</u>					
Belfry Repair Fund- Restricted	6			13,255		12,815
General Fund- Unrestricted	6			<u>1,679</u>		<u>1,620</u>
				<u>14,934</u>		<u>14,435</u>

3 Gift Aid Tax Refund

	2024		2023	
	No	£	No	£
Members Subscriptions	490	1,770	497	1,768
Arrears		22		51
Donations		30		10
Association		1,822		1,829
Branches- Donations & GASDS		45		231
Total		1,867		2,060

4 Investments

	2024		2023	
		£		£
Interest & Investment Income				
M&G Charifund		2,051		1,504
CCLA Deposit Fund		2,773		1,896
Other Deposit Accounts		31		433
Association		4,855		3,833
Branches		185		126
Total		5,040		3,959

Valuation- 1950 Units M&G Charifund

		2024		2023	
	<i>pence/unit</i>		£		£
Market value at 31 October 2023	1,374.82		26,809		27,205
Market value at 31 October 2024	1,478.17		28,824		26,809
Unrealised gain (loss)			2,015		(396)

Historical Cost

£10,500

5 Other Assets

	2024		2023	
		£		£
Association				
Badges- at Cost	58 @ £4.20	244	(62)	260

Branches

	Year	Cost £		Depreciation charge in 2024
Bristol Rural- Books			38	38
Forest- Trophies			75	75
Gloucester- Odd struckness meter	2020	£307	50	50
Tewkesbury- Training Bell	2014	£550	50	50
Wotton- Odd struckness meter	2019	£307	0	62
			213	62

6 Income and Expenditure by Fund

	2024		2023	
	Belfry Repair Fund	General Fund	Belfry Repair Fund	General Fund
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Subscriptions	13,255	1,679	12,815	1,620
Gift Aid Tax Refund	1,643	179	1,652	177
Affiliation Fees	4,590		4,890	
Interest & Investment Income	4,855		3,833	
Donations & Legacies	385		250	
Training Day	312			
Other Income		427		486
	<u>25,040</u>	<u>2,285</u>	<u>23,440</u>	<u>2,283</u>
Expenditure				
Grants Paid	54,458		3,710	
Courses and Competition	548		50	
Management and administration		1,528	0	1,634
	<u>55,006</u>	<u>1,528</u>	<u>3,760</u>	<u>1,634</u>

7 Transfers between Funds

£772 has been transferred from the Unrestricted Fund to the Restricted Fund in accordance with Management Committee decision of 2002 that the Unrestricted Fund be maintained at 1 1/3 of average expenditure, with any excess transferred to the Restricted Fund. The calculation is based on the years 2022-2024.

8 Grants for Belfry Repair

Association	Date Approved	Bfwd at 1 Nov 23	Approved 2024	Paid 2024	Cfwd at 31 Oct 24
		£	£	£	£
Ruardean	2016/22	23,000	(23,000)	<i>withdrawn</i>	0
Norton	2021	8,137	6,832	(14,969)	0
Central Council Mobile Belfry	2022	1,000			1,000
Cirencester	2022	5,124		(5,124)	0
Corse	2022	3,670	-91	(3,579)	0
Longhope	2022	1,665		(1,665)	0
Staunton (Gloucester)	2022	12,463	2	(12,465)	0
Ashchurch	2022	9,568		(9,568)	0
Hardwicke	2023	2,095		(2,095)	0
Elmore	2023	105		(105)	0
Hartpury	2023	2,527		(2,527)	0
Syston	2023	1,475		(1,475)	0
Stoke Bishop	2023	662			662
St Mary de Crypt, Gloucester	2023	414		(414)	0
Dymock	2024		4,955		4,955
Winchcombe	2024		472	(472)	0
Minety	2024		604		604
Stroud ¹	2024		324		324
Bisley	2024		282		282
TOTAL		<u>71,905</u>	<u>(9,620)</u>	<u>(54,458)</u>	<u>7,827</u>

¹ subject to approval of the Faculty

These grants are awarded at 20% of qualifying expenditure

Details of potential future grant applications are shown in the Trustees Report

Branches

	Date Approved	Bfwd at 1 Nov 23	Approved 2024	Paid 2024	Cfwd at 31 Oct 24
Bristol Rural- Syston	2024		1,475	(1,475)	0
Cheltenham- Winchcombe	2024		250	(250)	0
Chippenham- Charlton	2024		100	(100)	0
Chippenham- St Paul's Chippenham	2024		800	(400)	400
Forest- Corse	2022	550		0	550
Forest- Dymock	2024		750	0	750
Forest- Longhope	2022	500		(500)	0
Forest- Staunton, Gloucester	2022	3,000		(3,000)	0
Gloucester- Hardwicke	2024		200	(200)	0
Gloucester- Norton	2022	300		0	300
Gloucester- St Mary de Crypt	2024		200	(200)	0
Stroud- Bisley	2024		253	(253)	0
	TOTAL	4,350	4,028	(6,378)	2,000

**Independent Examiners' Report to the Trustees of
The Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers**

We report to the Trustees on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 31 October 2024, which are set out on pages 11 to 16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Association you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). We report in respect of our examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out our examination we have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiners' statement

We have completed our examination. We confirm that no material matters have come to our attention in connection with the examination giving us cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination. We have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr C Woodd MA FIA
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Baunton
Cirencester GL7 7DL

Mrs M Harris
3 Furzey Hill Cottage
Meysey Hampton
Cirencester GL7 5LG

February 2025

