

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Founded 5th January 1924

Registered Charity No: 258271



From the Guild Treasurer: Chris FitzGerald
The Penthouse, 22-24 St Andrews Street, Northampton NN1 2HY

Dear P.C.C Treasurer, Diocese of Peterborough

Subscription to the Affiliation Scheme for 2025

Our Bell Fund Scheme is for the restoration and improvement of bells throughout the Diocese. It relies on fund raising activity by the Committee which includes an Affiliation Scheme with annual contributions from parishes in the Diocese. Given the financial pressures created by Covid on parish finances we suspended our requests from parishes for 3 years. Our requests for support in 2023 and 2024 did not achieve the previous level of support so we have tried to ensure that all parishes are aware of the work that the Bell Fund supports and stories have been published on the Diocesan Website and are attached to this letter. Hopefully your financial situation in 2025 is recovering after the ravages of COVID and you can contribute this year, especially if your parish has received a grant from the scheme.

The recent high raised for the fund in 2019 amounted to £7,838. Grants of over £56,000 have been approved in last 4 years. We expect the demand for restoration and repair projects to increase over the "return to ringing" phase following the COVID pandemic and our recent successful recruitment of new ringers. Please see the Bell Fund page on our website at www.pdg.org.uk for information on our grant activities. Additionally, we have a Training Fund which supports training in the art of bellringing which is helping our ringers improve their skills.

The amount given by the parishes to the Affiliation Scheme represents the largest single contribution to the Bell Fund, and we are most grateful for the support of the parishes that subscribed a total of £4,325 for 2019, £2,815 for 2020 but has dropped to £405 for 2022 and £520 for both 2023 and 2024. The donations ranging up to £200. The Guild thanks parishes for their contributions and especially welcomes those parishes that consider joining the scheme for the first time.

We appeal to you to help us in our work to support the ministry with bells infrastructure. We would be grateful if you could spare a subscription of £20 or more. Whilst still being willing to post a formal Affiliation Certificate as a token of our appreciation, as an alternative we would be pleased to send you an electronic version, if you provide an e-mail address. This will save postage and stationery costs (£2) and further enhance the fund. Please feel free to request a formal hardcopy certificate.

Guild Officers are always ready to answer questions or to speak about our work.

If you would prefer to minimise your own postage and bank charges by using a Bank to Bank Transfer rather than posting a cheque, our account is with Lloyds - sort code 30-94-68 with account no. 00494829, please provide your parish name as the reference and the key word "Affiliation". Please let me know that you have paid electronically by e-mail at treasurer@pdg.org.uk or by text to 07761 180369 and confirm if you would like a certificate.

The financial challenge is considerable, and your assistance is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Chris FitzGerald

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To Chris FitzGerald, Guild Treasurer, The Penthouse, 22-24 St Andrews Street, Northampton NN1 2HY
I enclose the 2023 Affiliation Subscription of £_____

please make cheques payable to "PDG Bell Fund" or Bank Transfer to 30-94-68 account 00494829

For the Parish of _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Telephone: _____

Please indicate if you require a certificate of affiliation YES / NO (Please circle)