THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Founded 5th January 1924 **Registered Charity No: 258271**

Dear P.C.C Treasurer, Diocese of Peterborough

Subscription to the Affiliation Scheme for 2026

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. We did not ask Parishes for a contribution in 2020, 2021 or 2022 due to the ravages imposed on Parish finances due to COVID. Our subsequent affiliation requests in 2023, 2024 achieved only 10% of previous levels so we have tried to ensure that all parishes are aware of the work that the Bell Fund supports and stories will be published on the Diocesan Website. These attempts have more than doubled that performance to 22.7%. Hopefully your financial situation in 2026 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 came from 170 parishes and amounted to £4,325. Grants of nearly £300,000 have been paid out to 141 parishes in 207 grants over 30 years. We want to be able to continue supporting grants to preserve the Bell Inventory in our Diocese to support the 900+ members of our Guild. Hopefully those 141 parishes will consider that an annual donation will enable us to support other parishes that were in their position in the future. Additionally, we have a Training Fund which supports training in the art of bellringing which is helping our ringers improve their skills.

The donations range 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 (£3) 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 – name – Peterborough Diocesan Gld Chur Bellringers, 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 2026 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*)