

Poster Display Set

The idea behind this set of posters is for them to be displayed at an Open Day or presentation. They aim to give a bit of background information on what bell ringing is, how its done and why you might enjoy it.

Ideally, they should be combined with information about local ringers and the set of bells in your tower. Adding photographs of recent tours, outings or socials is also a good idea.

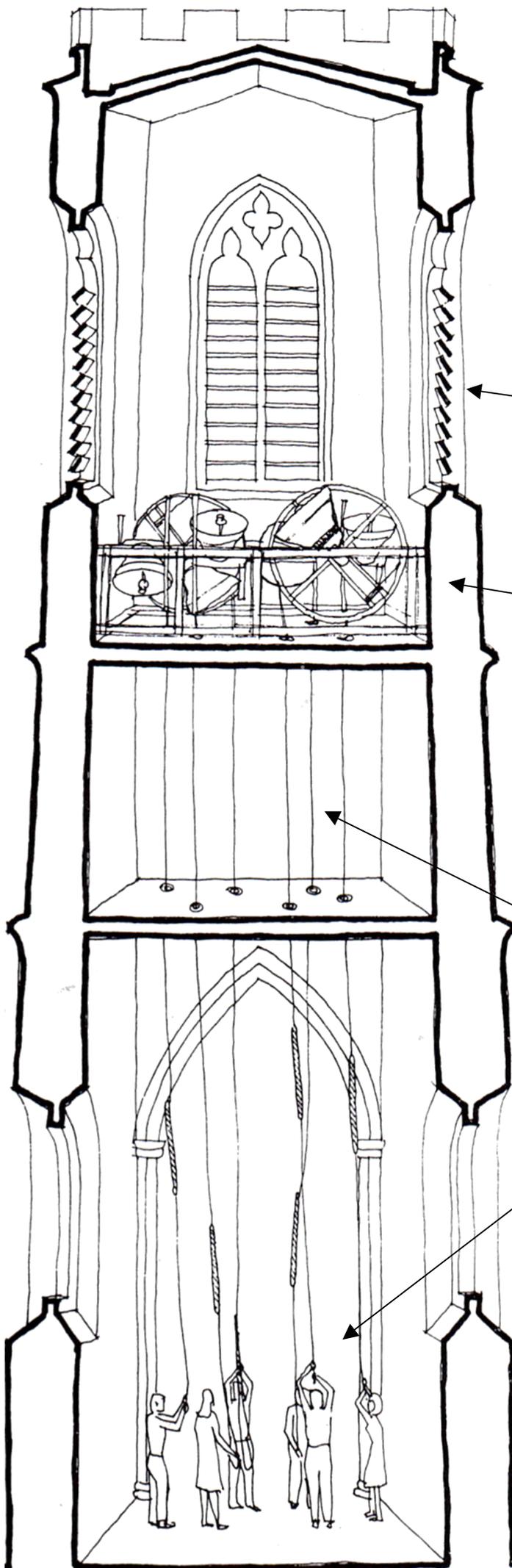
Hopefully they will prove useful to you, or at least act to supplement your display materials and give you further inspiration.

Produced by Recruiter Hub
www.bellringing.org/recruiterhub



with source materials from Leicester Diocesan Guild & Pip Penny

What's inside the tower?



LOUVRES: the baffle-boarded sound windows that spread the sound up and out. You can see these on the outside of the tower

BELFRY: the bells are hung in a wooden frame or metal frame with each bell fixed to a large wooden wheel that pivots on the frame. A rope is tied to the wheel spokes, runs partly round the rim and falls through holes and pulleys to the ringing chamber below

CLOCK CHAMBER: church clocks have huge mechanisms and need to be frequently wound-up

RINGING CHAMBER: ropes come down in a circle in order of bell-size (usually clockwise). Bell ringers stand in an inward-facing circle behind the ropes. Often you will find floor mats used to prevent rope ware, boxes for the shorter ringers, boards commemorating ringing and seats for extra ringers



Is this you?

If you think the following describes you...

- Don't want any physical exercise
- Don't want any mental exercise
- Don't enjoy being part of a team
- Antisocial
- Don't want to learn something new
- Don't want to be of service to your Church and community
- Don't want to visit beautiful parts of the country and abroad that "tourists" do not see
- Don't want to see historic and architecturally fascinating buildings
- Don't want a lifelong hobby at little or no expense

...then bell ringing probably isn't for you

Why should I become a bell ringer?

If you think you might **enjoy** any of the following...

- Non-strenuous but healthy physical exercise
- Modest amount of mental exercise
- Being part of a team
- A good social life
- An opportunity to continually learn something new
- Being of service to your Church and community
- Visiting beautiful parts of the country and abroad that “tourists” do not see
- Seeing historic and architecturally fascinating buildings
- Having a lifelong hobby at little or no expense

...then ringing may be just what you are looking for

A bit of history...

- After the Reformation (1547) many sets of bells were repaired and re-hung for 'change ringing' (it was the latest technology at the time!)
- Ringing became very popular with 'lay' people and various Associations were formed. The Ancient Society of Royal Cumberland Youths (founded in 1637) is the oldest surviving Association
- During the reign of James II (1633-1688) bell ringing became extremely fashionable amongst the aristocracy as it provided physical exercise and intellectual stimulation
- The first true peal (a extent of ringing with over 5 000 different variations in) was believed to have been rung on May 2nd 1715 at St Peter Mancroft, Norwich
- During the Second World War bell ringing was banned
- All over the world bells were rung on January 1st 2000 to celebrate the new millennium

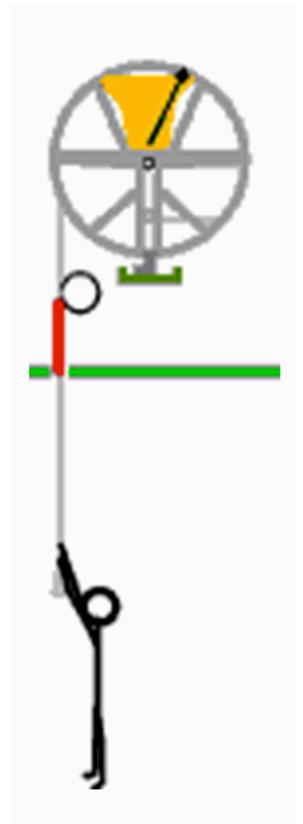
How do you ring a bell?

The bells are hung so that they can be rotated in a full circle, 360 degrees.

A rope is fastened to the bell wheel (grey section on diagram) and this then runs down the tower to the bell ringer in the ringing chamber.

The bell always starts with the mouth 'up'. The ringer will then pull on their rope (the coloured sallie) and the bell spins a full circle. The ringer will then be as shown, when they pull down and the bell rotates fully again to return to the original position.

In each full rotation the bell strikes once. By timing these pulls and varying their strength the ringer can control when the bell strikes and produce the patterns in change ringing.



What is change ringing?

Bells can be made to follow one another in order, each ringing once before the first rings again. Ringing bells in a precise relationship to one another is the essence of change ringing.

Rung in the order from the lightest, highest pitched bell to the heaviest, deepest pitched bell, they strike in a sequence known as 'rounds', see top

To produce variations in the sound, bells are made to change places with adjacent bells in the row. In order to ring a different row with each pull of the rope, ringers have devised methods, orderly systems of changing pairs. In ringing a method the bells begin in rounds, ring changes according to the method, and return to rounds without repeating any row along the way.

Ringers show methods and the bells in them using numbered patterns, as shown above. To remember where they must strike their bell they learn a 'blue line' – which shows their bell's path. It is known as a 'blue line' because it is commonly marked in blue. Can you follow the line for the bell number 1 in the diagram? Have a go!!

1 2 3 4 5
ROUNDS

1 2 3 4 5
2 1 4 3 5
2 4 1 5 3
4 2 5 1 3
4 5 2 3 1
5 4 3 2 1
5 3 4 1 2
3 5 1 4 2
3 1 5 2 4
1 3 2 5 4
1 2 3 4 5

PLAIN
HUNT

(a basic method)

What else do we do?

As well as regular practice nights and Sunday service ringing we also have...

- Quiz nights
- Barbecues
- Skittles evenings
- Barn dances
- Treasure hunts
- Outings
- Holidays
- Courses

“I’ve never met a bunch of such sociable people!”

When are bells rung?

- For church services
- For weddings
- For special occasions
- On ringers practice nights

Where are bells rung?

- The British Isles
- Canada and America
- Australia and New Zealand
- South Africa

...mostly, but not entirely, in Church towers

Why are bells rung?

- As a service to the community
- To mark special occasions or celebrations
- For the enjoyment of the ringers

Don't get the wrong idea

To be able to ring you need to be good at maths and music

- ✗ The only maths you need is being able to count and musical skill is not important either**

Bell ringers are all old men who go to church

- ✗ Bell ringers are of all ages, from 10 to 100. Some go to church, others do not – that's up to you!**

Bell ringing is expensive to learn

- ✗ Ringing costs nothing but a bit of your time to learn, & wedding ringing could actually pay you!!**

Bells are very heavy and to ring you need to be very strong

- ✗ Yes bells are heavy, with an average bell weighing about the same as five men. However they hung on 'ball bearings' meaning that you don't need to be strong. Bell ringing is far more about technique than strength**