

HOW ARE BELLS RUNG?

A bell starts with its mouth facing down. By pulling the rope it is swung higher and higher until it can be rested with its mouth facing up. From this position it can be rotated full circle first one way and then the other. Only the rope is used to perform these operations. For each rotation the bell sounds once.

WHAT IS CHANGE RINGING?

When the bells sound down the scale they are ringing **ROUNDS**.

A **CHANGE** is when the bells ring in an order other than rounds. In a set piece no change should be repeated.

The system of arranging the changes is termed a **METHOD**. There are many methods. They vary from the simple to the very complex.

A **PEAL** is over 5000 changes and takes around three hours to ring.

A **TOUCH** can be as few as 24 changes and take a few minutes to ring.

WOULD I BE ANY GOOD AS A RINGER?

If you can answer yes to these questions you will probably have what it takes to be a bell ringer.

- PHYSICAL STRENGTH** Can you push a child on a swing?
- CO-ORDINATION** Can you swim, ride a bike or drive a car?
- NUMERICAL MEMORY** Memorise and repeat this number (which is the change called QUEENS on 8 bells) 13572468
- RHYTHM** Can you count from 1 to 8 then 8 to 1 three times (123456788765432112345 etc)?
- TIME** Could you spend at least one weekday evening and one hour on Sunday on bell ringing?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY?



You would be more than welcome to have a go!
Just come along to our Monday practise
Or contact any of the ringers below.
You will find It is never too early or too late to start.

REGULAR RINGING AT ST. MARY'S, WISTASTON

Weekly Practise: Monday 8.00 - 9.00 pm

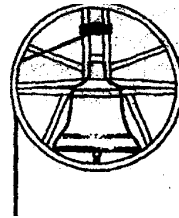
Service Ringing: Sunday 10.00 - 10.40 am

For More Information Please Contact:

Frank Morton (01425 613976)

Paul Maddock Crewe (01270 650871)
E-mail paul.maddock@btinternet.com

Robert Galloway (Crewe 01270 584922)
E-mail: robgalloway@cottweston.eclipse.co.uk



WARNING!
Bell ringing is addictive

.....NOW FOR SOMETHING
COMPLETELY DIFFERENT
Have you ever thought about
BELL RINGING

St. Mary's ringers need you

TOWER BELL RINGING

....But I'm not musical.... I'm too small..... I'm too old... haven't the energy after work... I'm not clever enough.... I just couldn't do it!

**YOU COULD BE JUST THE PERSON WE'RE
LOOKING FOR**

Yes, YOU!

*"If you can ride a bicycle,
you can learn to ring!"*

QUALIFICATIONS NECESSARY -

None

RINGERS NEED NOT BE -

*Big
Strong
Musical
Mathematical*

WHO RINGS THE BELLS?

*Men
Women
Boys
Girls
Young (age 10 upwards)
Old (some ringers are in their eighties!)*

*It's a great activity for whole families as well
as individuals*

YOU could ring our bells

May we introduce you to

CHURCH BELL RINGING

This is a real British Folk Art. Bells have been the voices of the Church almost since Christianity began. The method of ringing as you find it now has been practiced for almost 400 years. The voices which come from our Cathedrals and Churches may be those of small high-sounding bells weighing little more than a hundredweight (50 kgs) to monsters of several tons.

Our heaviest bell at Wistaston weighs 8 hundredweight

RINGING THE CHANGES

In the seventeenth century the practice of turning the bell full circle with rope and wheel to make it speak with its fullest tone was developed.

This gave ringers control of their bell and allowed sets of bells to be rung in a continuously changing pattern.

Music is created by moving bells up and down the ringing order to a defined sequence of changes, known as a method.

Some methods are many centuries old and have strange names like "Grandsire Doubles".

Learning a few simple methods allows ringers to join other bands in towers all around the world.

WHY AND WHEN ARE BELLS RUNG?

- *For Sunday Services*
- *For special celebrations*
- *For civic occasions*
- *To commemorate anniversaries*
- *To celebrate weddings*

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

- *A country-wide group of friends*
- *A life long hobby*
- *Keep a traditional skill alive*
- *A service to the church*
- *A great team activity*
- *Opportunity to visit amazing places*
- *Exercise body and mind*
- *You can learn as much or as little, as fast or as slowly as you like*

***Church bell ringing is a thoroughly enjoyable
and deeply fascinating art.***

WHY?

Ringers will find many reasons why they ring, it may be a service to the Church. They may find companionship, team spirit, musical or rhythmical satisfaction, a useful form of exercise (though never really exhausting), physical and intellectual challenge and probably many other reasons as well. Also, when they visit any other town or village which has bells and ringers they will find a warm welcome and immediate friendship.

WHERE WOULD I RING?

There are over 5000 churches with bells, but we hope that you might be able to join our band here at

St. Mary's, Wistaston