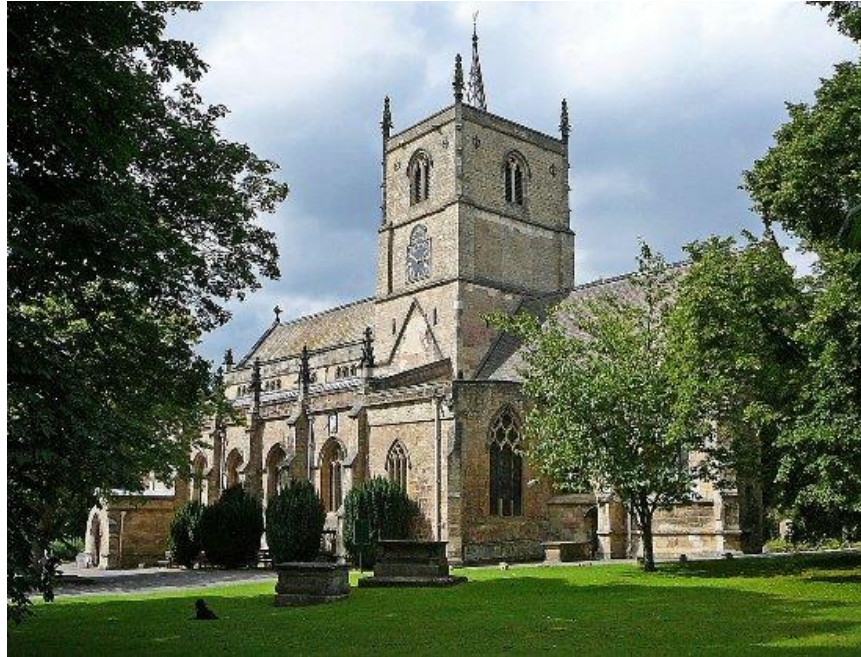


# Opening the Tower

## How We Do It at Knaresborough



# Introduction and Get Out Clause

- We have opened the Tower at St John's many times over many years.
- As such we are 'old hands' at doing it
- **HOWEVER** – what we do is specific to us.
- We don't claim to have got it right – but it works!
- What I hope to do is give you ideas on how you could do it at your Tower.
- Feel free to spot where we could do better

# Points to Consider

Permission

People (the visitors)

Publicity

Programme / Presentation

Planning

Protection

Preparing

People (the hosts)

Props

Presentation



# Extract from Risk Analysis

## Talk/demonstration in ringing Room

- Typically, a talk on the process of ringing takes place in the ringing room before visitors are taken upstairs to the belfry. Before the talk, all bells will usually be down. It may be decided to leave a bell up so that when visitors ascend to belfry they can see a bell in the up position and the bell can be rung whilst they are up there to demonstrate the sound. If this demonstration is performed it will be on the number 6 or 7 bells (which are at the back of the bell frame and well away from observers).  
**Hazard: Bell being pulled off, person getting caught up in rope, possibility of injury, possibly serious.**  
**Mitigation: The rope in the ringing room will be protected from accidental or deliberate pulling by a visitor by hitching to the spider (i.e. out of reach). Visitors will be warned of hazard during demonstration.**  
**Risk: Low, if the above is applied.**
- If sufficient ringers are available and if the number of visitors is small enough, a full demonstration may be given. This demonstration will consist of ringers raising the front 6 bells in peal and then ringing various calls and methods. Finishing by ringing funeral peals on 2 to 7. During this demo visitors will be asked to stand or sit in the area by the shelves and TV. If there are too many people then they can sit on the chairs by the door.
- If there are insufficient ringers then one person can give a talk and demonstrate ringing up etc.  
**Hazard: bell being pulled off, person getting caught up in rope, possibility of injury, possibly serious.**  
**Risk: Provided visitors remain static and do not move around - low**  
**Mitigation: Visitors will be told to stay still once the demo starts.**  
**Recommendation: A steward will need to be at the door to show new arrivals where to go/sit/stand.**

## Demonstration in Belfry

- Visitors will be encouraged to stand behind the ladder, although there is space for two people at the top of the stairs. Due to the lack of protection around the trap door, it is recommended that a steward stays on the top steps to prevent anyone getting too close to the trap.  
**Hazard: person falls through trap onto stairs**  
**Risk of falling through trap: Medium to low**  
**Mitigation: A steward stays on the top steps to prevent anyone getting too close to the trap.**
- The demonstrator will demonstrate the bells in the down position and explain ringing from the top of the frame. Visitors will not be allowed on the frame. If it is decided to include demonstrating ringing an 'up' bell, this will be one of the rear bells (6 or 7), well away from the visitors who will be standing at the front of the frame. The demonstration will include ringing the 'up' bell from downstairs. Visitors will be warned of the loud noise. Visitors take no part in the demonstration. Bells may be swung slightly to demonstrate rotary motion.  
**Hazards: None**



# Roles on the Day

Marshalls or Meeters and Greeters

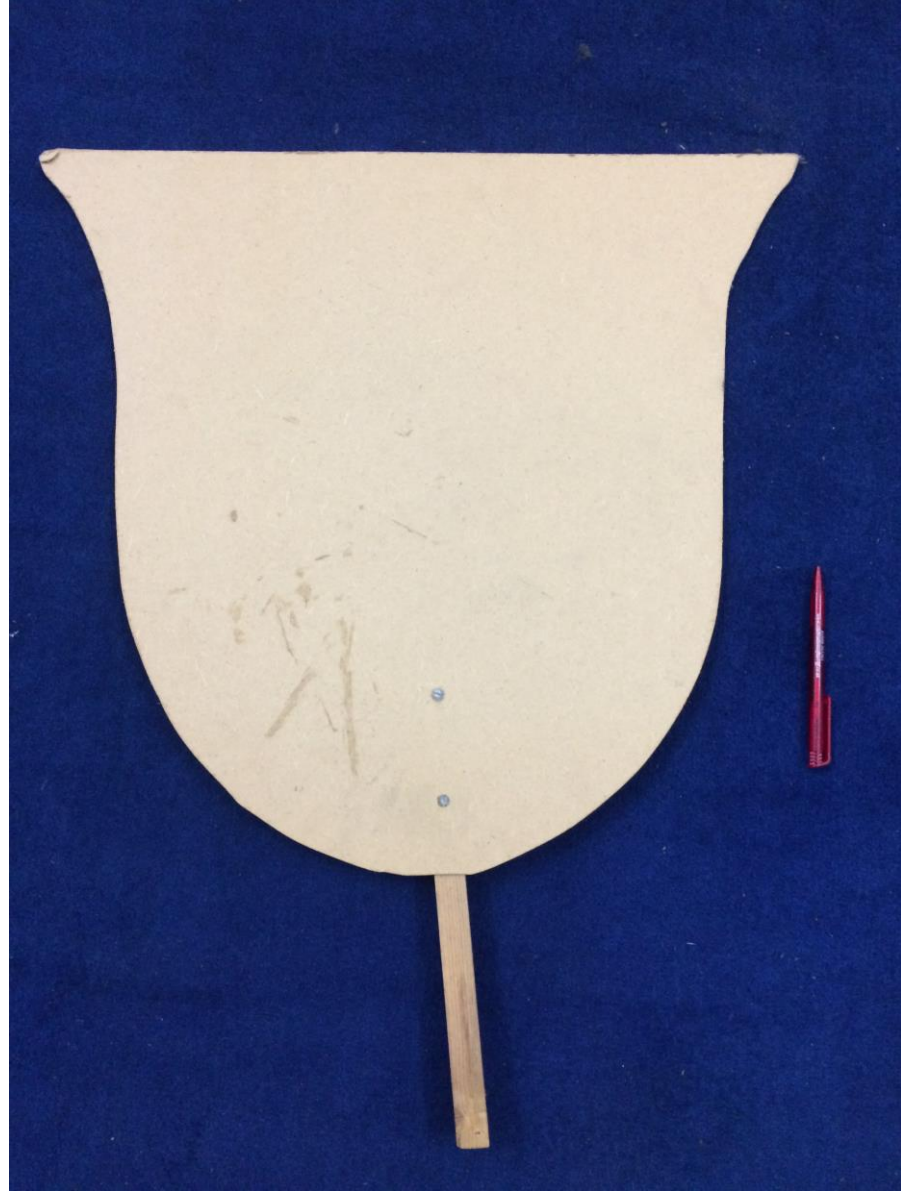
Speakers

Safety

Ringers







yacr  
Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers

# Resources – you are not alone

The Central Council has a small stock of publicity materials available for use at events

## **Roller Banners (3 available)**

85cm wide x 205cm high.

Supplied rolled up inside stand in a travel case with handle.

For indoor use only (or inside a tent/gazebo).

## **Feather Flags (4 available)**

65cm wide x 315cm high.

Plus parasol-type base which **MUST** be filled with water.

Supplied dismantled in a travel case with handle.

Assembly instructions supplied.

For external use (but not in very high winds).

**These are available to borrow** (subject to availability) for public display at major ringing events and local promotional events.

They are normally stored in Derbyshire and supplied via the network of ringers travelling the country, so please make appropriate arrangements for collection and prompt return.

Contact Susan Hall: [PRO@derbyda.org.uk](mailto:PRO@derbyda.org.uk)

If you are thinking of buying your own banner or flag and would like the artwork, please contact Susan Hall: [PRO@derbyda.org.uk](mailto:PRO@derbyda.org.uk)





# Resources – you are not alone

- CCCBR -Ringing flyer



## Bell Ringing is fun and ...

*Could it be your perfect activity?*

- ♦ for **young people** (10yrs+) and **adults** of all ages – individuals, couples, families or groups. It's for all faiths & none (and you don't need to be musical, mathematical or strong)
- ♦ **enjoyable & satisfying** – experience new achievements
- ♦ a gentle **workout** – physical exercise with mental stimulation – burns calories, tones muscles and relieves stress
- ♦ an easy way to **make friends** – enjoy social activities and be part of a team and community
- ♦ a great activity **at university** – or anywhere (mostly UK)
- ♦ **inexpensive** – and be paid ringing for weddings!
- ♦ boosts **soft skills**: teamwork, leadership, co-ordination, concentration, listening and analytical
- ♦ an **all-weather**, year-round activity which fits in with your other commitments
- ♦ full of **variety** – a centuries-old skill using new technology – with endless choices & places to visit
- ♦ makes your **community's soundscape**: Sunday services, weddings & special events
- ♦ produces a **fabulous emotion-stirring sound** for people to enjoy
- ♦ it's the **ultimate Heavy Metal**: Church bells are the **loudest\*** (unamplified) and **heaviest** musical instruments in the world... and they're metal!

\* ringing chambers are usually sound-proofed for **safe noise levels**



## How Bells are Rung

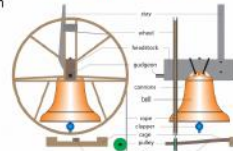
Bells are rung **full-circle** from the 'UP' position (upside-down) with a rope round a wheel. This allows ringers to vary ringing speed to change the order in which the bells ring



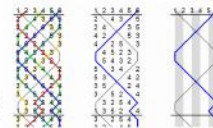
Learn at your own pace in stages:

1. **Bell handling** (pulling the rope)
2. **Rounds** (ringing in time with others)
3. **Change ringing** (methods)

*There are about 40,000 ringers in over 6,000 towers!*



A BELL IN THE 'DOWN' POSITION



## Discover more about Ringing ...



At **bellringing.org** and **cccb.org.uk**

for more information and great videos of what ringing is about, with **contacts** for **learning to ring** near to where you live  
And at **universityringing.org** if you're at uni

### Would YOU like to give it a try?

An experienced ringer will be happy to teach you and there's no obligation to continue if it's not for you



*Most towers welcome new ringers of all ages and many have young people who enjoy ringing*

**Contacts** for further information and where you can learn to ring

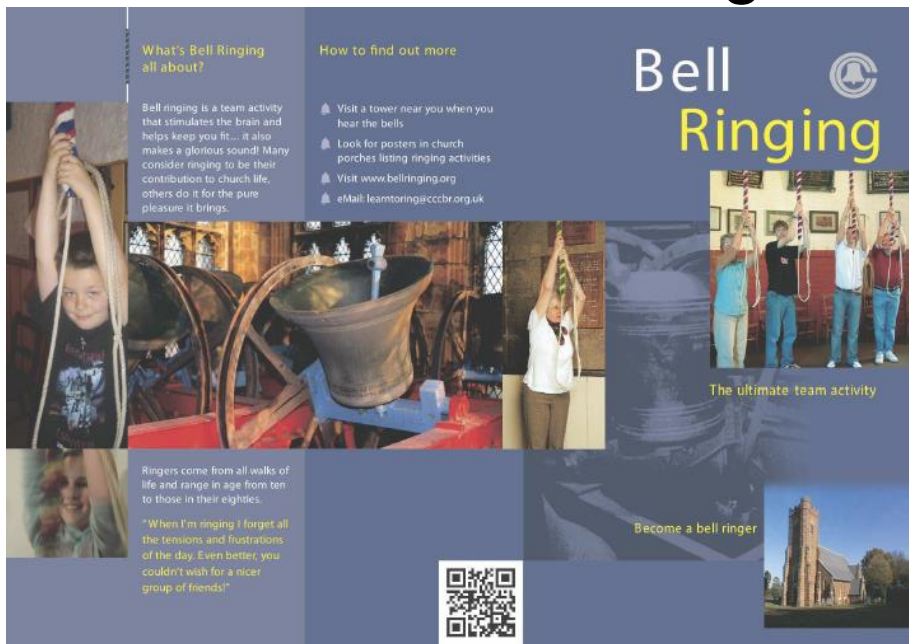


**yacr**  
York Association of Change Ringers

Author: Susan C. Hall. Layout: Elinor C. Hall. Cover: Susan C. Hall. Design: Susan C. Hall. See <http://www.bellringing.org> for more info.

# Resources – you are not alone

- CCCBR – Recruiting



**What's Bell Ringing all about?**

Bell ringing is a team activity that stimulates the brain and helps keep you fit... it also makes a glorious sound! Many consider ringing to be their contribution to church life, others do it for the pure pleasure it brings.

**How to find out more**

- Visit a tower near you when you hear the bells
- Look for posters in church porches listing ringing activities
- Visit [www.bellringing.org](http://www.bellringing.org)
- eMail: [learnring@cccb.org.uk](mailto:learnring@cccb.org.uk)

**Bell Ringing**

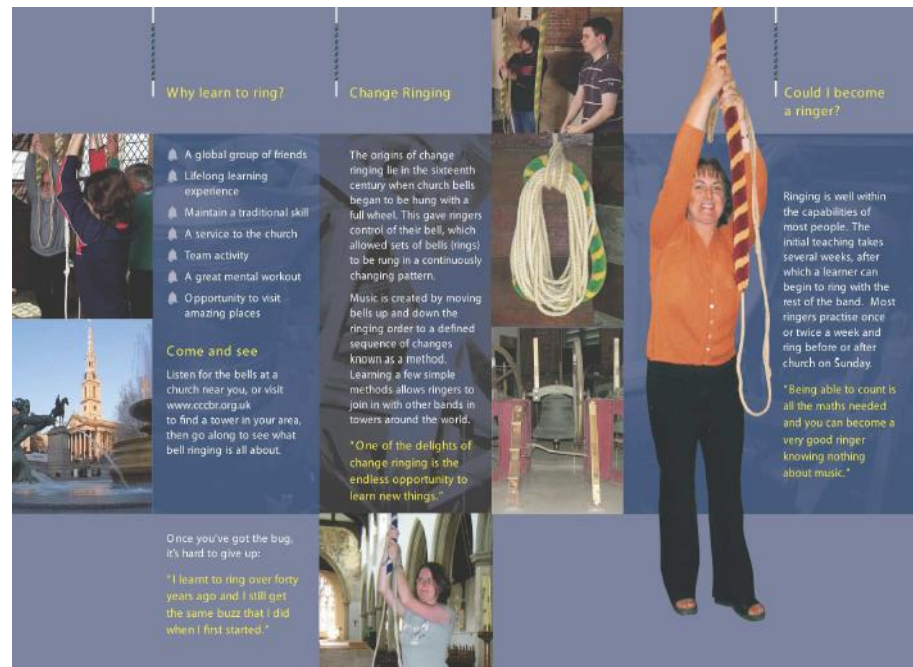
**The ultimate team activity**

Ringers come from all walks of life and range in age from ten to those in their eighties.

"When I'm ringing I forget all the tensions and frustrations of the day. Even better, you couldn't wish for a nicer group of friends!"

**Become a bell ringer**

QR code



**Why learn to ring?**

- A global group of friends
- Lifelong learning experience
- Maintain a traditional skill
- A service to the church
- Team activity
- A great mental workout
- Opportunity to visit amazing places

**Come and see**

Listen for the bells at a church near you, or visit [www.cccbr.org.uk](http://www.cccbr.org.uk) to find a sower in your area, then go along to see what bell ringing is all about.

**Change Ringing**

The origins of change ringing lie in the sixteenth century when church bells began to be rung with a full wheel. This gave ringers control of their bells, which allowed sets of bells (rings) 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. Learning a few simple methods allows ringers to join in with other bands in towers around the world.

"One of the delights of change ringing is the endless opportunity to learn new things."

Once you've got the bug it's hard to give up:

"I learnt to ring over forty years ago and I still get the same buzz that I did when I first started."

**Could I become a ringer?**

Ringers are well within the capabilities of most people. The initial teaching takes several weeks, after which a learner can begin to ring with the rest of the band. Most ringers practice once or twice a week and ring before or after church on Sunday.

"Being able to count is all the maths needed and you can become a very good ringer knowing nothing about music."

# The Script

Definitely NOT prescriptive, different aspects appeal to different visitors  
Invite Questions and Use Props as much as possible

Introduce yourself and all of the others involved.

Repeat safety information

Topics : The Ring of Bells as a Musical Instrument

(usually a musical scale; very loud; one person per note)

An individual Bell as a Musical instrument

(made of Bell Metal; Tuning / A chord; Size)

The Mechanics and Physics of a Swinging Bell

(Preparing for swinging; Rope / Wheel; Optimum position for sound; Counter Balances;  
Consistent speed;

Inherent Limitations

(speed, lack of notes)

How we mix them up to make the 'English' sound

(boring; can just swap two bells; patterns not tunes) Demonstrate this



yacr  
Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers

# The Ascent to the Bells

The number per group is limited by safety – in our case about 8

Warn of hazards before ascending (steepness; filth, moving / dangerous items etc.. If having a bell rung then the volume as well!).

Point out : biggest / smallest; clapper; stay; wheel; rope; garter holes; counter balance; pivot positions; inscriptions; layout of frame (square); layout of ropes (circle); construction of frame

Have one bell rung (if safe).

# Meanwhile

There is a lot in the Ringing Room to talk about and explain to those waiting to see the bells.

Clock (mechanism including chimes) Ours is large with an anticlockwise face and one hand – a teaser for small children)

Ellacombes

Peal Boards (why the number of changes; what a method is)

Photographs

Boxes (for standing on)

Books (Diagrams is an absolute confounder)

Raise the Social side of things and what the band does outside the tower (outings, dinners, supporting the church as a group)

Mention the Branch; YACR and CCCBR

Walk through plain hunt on three (using children if possible)

# Demonstration (if safe) (optional – it takes time)

1. Ring rounds on 4
2. Call changes moving the front three as if plain hunt
3. Ring Plain hunt on three (ie not called) Point out that this is what was rung before)
4. Ring plain hunt on Four
5. Ring Plain Bob Minimus (have a chart to explain the pattern)





# Let the Visitors Have a Go

Again optional as it takes time, and only do this if totally safe

- Let visitors chime a bell (under supervision of course)
- Some visitors may benefit from chiming different bells to see how they compare.

# To End the Visit

- Give each visitor a leaflet (who to contact, when you practice etc.)
- Remind them about the Stairs. Remember we are used to spiral stairs, most people are not. It will take longer than you think
  - Have confident people between those worried
  - Talking to frightened people often helps
  - Get them to count the stairs
- The Marshalls at the foot of the stairs to lead them out.



# Summary Timetable

## Two months (or more) in advance

- Decide on what you can offer, and to whom
- Choose a date and time
- Gain full permission.
- Make sure that everything is safe, including insurance and DBS
- Make sure that you have enough 'hosts' for the day.

## Then you can and must advertise widely

## Two weeks in advance

- Repeat advertising
- Double check on everything agreed so far – life will have moved on! Permission, helpers etc.
- Prepare the display for those waiting, and create notices.
- Assemble (and check) your props.

## A week in advance

- Clean everywhere

## Day before

- Confirm that all the helpers are still available, and all know what they are going to do.
- Check that all props and materials are to hand. Check that the bells are OK.

## On the Day

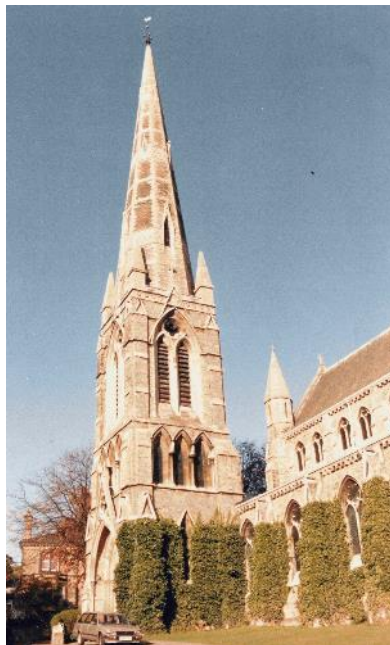
- Disengage the Clock chimes.
- Everyone to be ready for the first visitor BEFORE the stated start time.
- Make sure that all notices (especially those about safety) are in position
- Make sure the Ringing Room is welcoming
- Keep the Tower Door locked to prevent people from turning up too soon

## Then you can relax and open up.

# Opening the Tower

## How We Do It at Ranmoor

a few more ideas to set you thinking



# Outside on the way in



# Inside



Videos or direct camera feeds from the ringing chamber

Small car reversing screen with small camera in ringing chamber





# Inside



# The Wombel



# A fascinated audience

