

## What should you say? – Here are some ideas

- Welcome your visitors to the tower and introduce yourself and the other ringers.
- Give a short talk about safety in the tower. Don't alarm them but tell them that they mustn't touch the ropes, they should keep their feet on the floor, children must be kept under control and everyone must keep out of the way when ringing is in progress.
- Talk to them about the ringing room – how many bells you have, each rope is attached to a wheel, which is attached to a bell. One person rings each bell. Tell them which bell is the heaviest and the lightest, and which notes all the bells are. Point out the clock mechanism (if you have one) and anything else of interest in the ringing room.
- Talk about how bells are cast, what they are made of, how much they weigh (convert to metric or compare with weights of things they might know as many people will be unfamiliar with hundredweights).
- Show them the sally and the tail end and explain how the rope goes around the wheel and how the bell rotates through 360° (a diagram or model of a bell will be very useful). Demonstrate a single bell being rung. Be sure to mention the stay, as they will be wondering how the bell can stop mouth upwards. If you have any broken (or unbroken) stays around, show them. Tell them that you don't need to be strong to ring as you only have to overcome friction to keep the bell swinging.
- Talk about the history of your bells, mention any particularly old bells you have.
- Describes rounds with the bells ringing in order from the lightest to the heaviest. Explain that being able to control when the bell strikes (unlike European ringing) allows us to ring slowly or quickly and to change the order of the bells. Explain call changes then do a short demonstration – tell them which call changes you are going to do first so that some of them are able to follow it.
- Explain method ringing – show them a diagram, then demonstrate it. If you choose doubles they might be able to watch for the tenor ringing last. Keep it short so they don't get bored.
- If you have a bell that is down, explain the difference between down and up and let them have a go at chiming. Let them feel the difference in weight between the treble and the tenor.
- If you feel confident, you may want to let them have a go at backstrokes with someone helping them.
- Give them your contact details and make sure they know that you are looking for new ringers.