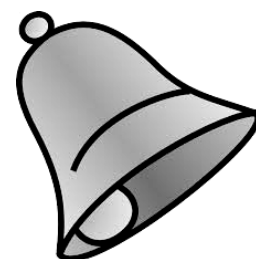


Would YOU like to be a bellringer?

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

If you would like to find out more about bellringing,
please call Jinny: 07854 438 027
or email: bowringers@hotmail.com
Practice night: Wednesdays 7.30pm-9.00pm

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.



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

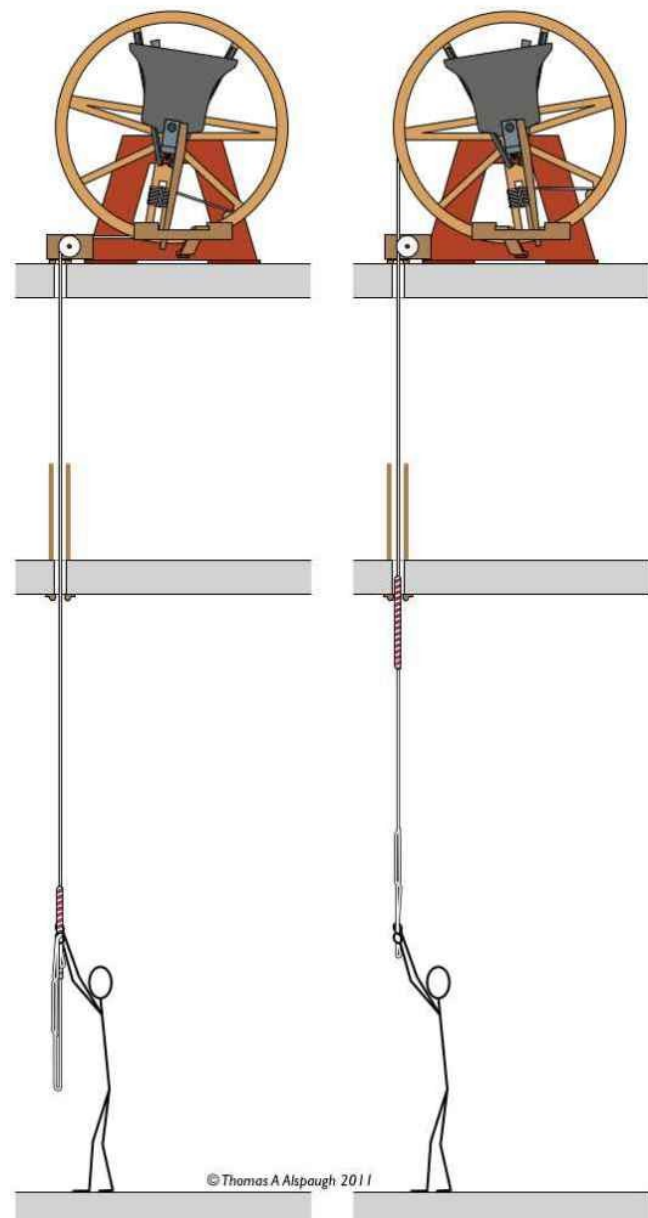
✗ Bell ringers are of all ages, from 10 to 100. Some go to church, others do not – that's up to you!

Bell ringing is expensive to learn

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

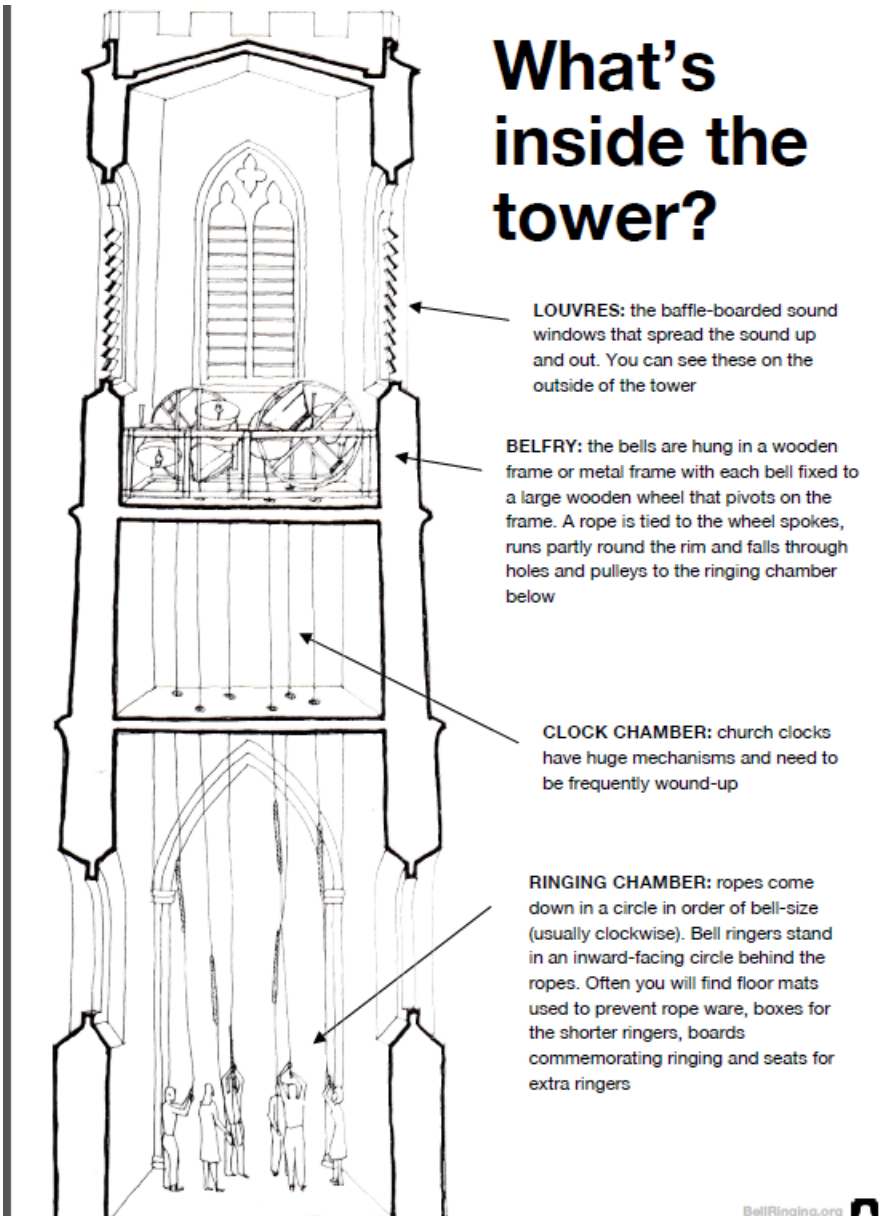
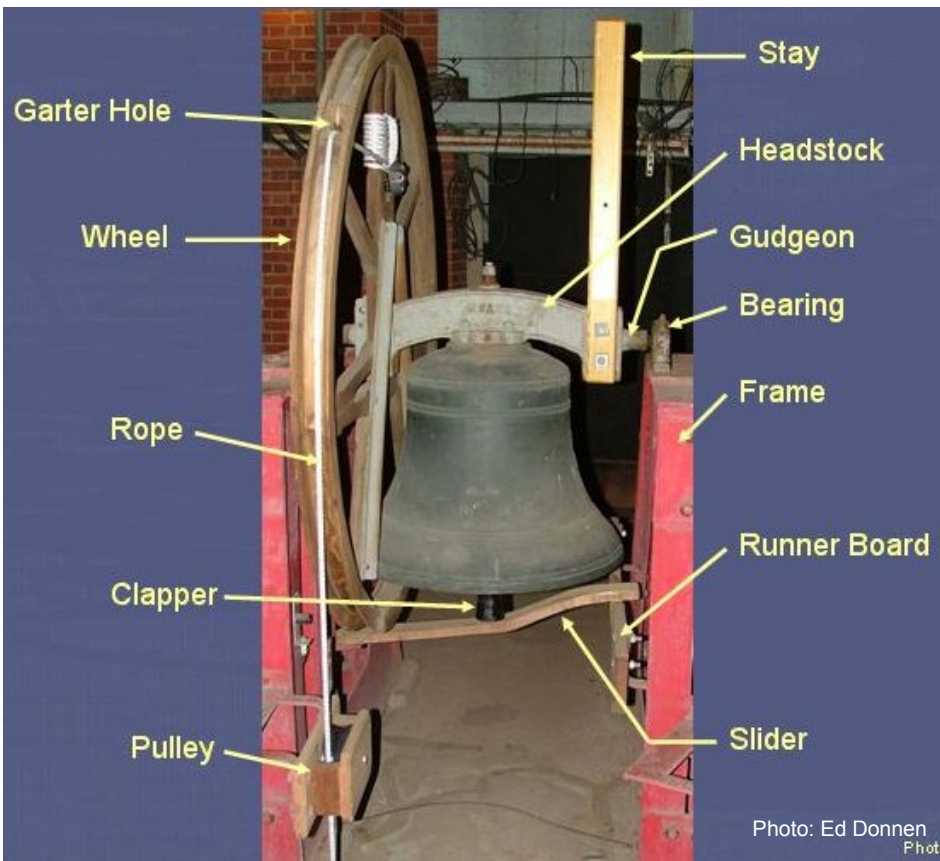
Bells are very heavy and to ring you need to be very strong

✗ 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





Don't panic!



So many commonly used terms which originate from church bells!

'That rings a bell'

Meaning: To sound familiar; to call something to mind; to stir a vague memory.

Origin: Bells such as the type used in churches are large and loud. Their sound can be heard from a great distance.

'Ringing the changes'

Meaning: Swopping things around, such as frequently rearranging the furniture in a room.

Origin: "Changes" here come from bell ringing where it is possible to make many variations in the order in which the bells are rung - such variations are the changes. In a 12 bell tower, to ring all possible changes would take nearly 40 years.

'Ring of truth'

Meaning: To be correct, to be true.

Origin: The origin of this phrase becomes obvious when you realize the original usage was to say that something did or did not "ring true". A bell that rings true is one that rings at the correct note. Something that rings true is correct.

'Saved by the bell' 'Dead ringer'

The origins of these sayings are disputed. The following is thought to be true by a number of people, others say it's incorrect!

Buried alive. Anyone's worst nightmare. For some people in England in the 1500's, that nightmare became a reality. When England began to run out of room to bury recently deceased people, they dug up the coffins of people who had long been deceased, removing their bones from the coffins and placing them in a bone house and re-using the gravesite. When opening the coffins of long ago buried bodies, they noticed that 1 out of every 25 coffins had scratch marks on the inside. The town folks had been burying people while they were still alive. To avoid anymore people being buried alive, a string would be tied to the wrist of each corpse, threaded through the coffin, up through the ground, and tied to a bell. Someone would have to sit in the graveyard all night and listen for the bell to ring, just in case the corpse was not really a corpse. Hence the sayings: Saved by the bell, Dead ringer and Graveyard shift.

Can you find the origin of these? :

'Clear as a bell'

'Sound as a bell'

'Set the alarm bells ringing'

'With bells on'

'Bats in the belfry'

'Out with the old and in with the new'

'Rang out (loud and clear)'

'A hollow ring about it'

'Go like the clappers'