



*Looking after  
the largest  
percussion  
instrument in  
the parish?*

*Can we help you?*

## THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

serves the Church in the Diocese of Peterborough by:

- 🔔 Ringing for Divine Service
- 🔔 Recruiting and training ringers
- 🔔 Encouraging the art of change ringing
- 🔔 Helping ringers to improve their standard of ringing
- 🔔 Care and restoration of bells and their fittings

The Guild is a registered Charity,  
a constituent body of the Diocesan Synod and  
affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.



## BELL MAINTENANCE REPAIRS & RESTORATION

- 🔔 Technical advice
- 🔔 Fund raising advice
- 🔔 Bell Fund grants
- 🔔 Voluntary help

## A TEAM OF RINGERS

- 🔔 Help with open day recruitment
- 🔔 Safe basic bell-handling training
- 🔔 Progressive practice
- 🔔 Encouragement



# **BELL MAINTENANCE REPAIRS & RESTORATION**

The maintenance of a church tower and its contents is the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council ('PCC').

Each tower will ideally have a tower captain appointed by the PCC, who either directly, or by delegating to a steeple keeper, can keep the PCC advised of any difficulties.

## **Steeple Keepers**

The Branch Steward or the Guild Steward (*see pages 3 and 4*) will be pleased to help train a new steeple keeper. Steeple Keepers need to work safely and make sure someone knows that they are in the tower.

Natural fibre ropes will need repair by splicing. Pre-stretched polyester top ends are likely to outlast the life of the sally and tail rope. Although pre-stretched polyester ropes cost more, besides the advantage of a longer life, they are far less likely to change their length with changes in humidity – an irritation to bellringers! When a rope is becoming well worn, please be aware that new ropes currently have delivery times of up to a year! Please note that the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme now makes grants to cover the amount of VAT paid on many bell items including ropes.

## **Quinquennial Inspections**

Not all architects have experience of bell installations and may need specialist advice. If you have nobody to assist in this or you want a second opinion, please contact the Branch Steward, who has experience in these matters and can assist with advice, perhaps hands-on assistance or a recommendation to get professional advice.

At the next quinquennial inspection, the Guild is keen to ensure that access facilities for those maintaining the bells are properly reviewed, e.g. lighting, ladder condition.

## **Major tower projects**

Major work, including heating apparatus, toilet provision, servery provision, organ apparatus, installation of radio telecommunications equipment or even the installation of well-intentioned but inappropriate 'health and safety' measures may well affect the bell installation and ringing. Again our Branch Stewards or the Guild Steward can give early advice. The Diocesan Advisory Committee ('DAC') also has a Bells Advisor who as a ringer and engineer can advise about major projects.

## **Noise Complaints**

If you receive complaints about noise from neighbours, don't ignore them! We can put you in touch with specialist advice, please consult us quickly – the Environmental Protection Officer has awesome powers, even if your bells have been ringing for 500 years!

CHECK THESE WEBSITES: [www.pdg.btck.co.uk/BellMaintenance](http://www.pdg.btck.co.uk/BellMaintenance)

## **Bell Fund**

The Guild's Bell Fund has made grants totalling £98,000 over the last 10 years for major and minor works to bell installations throughout the diocese. Applications can be made through the Guild Steward.

Part of the income for the fund comes through an affiliation scheme for PCCs. Our Treasurer seeks a subscription of £20 or more annually.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE: [www.pdg.btck.co.uk/BellFund](http://www.pdg.btck.co.uk/BellFund)

# A TEAM OF RINGERS

## Change ringing

Change Ringing is a co-ordinated team musical performance involving a group of people ringing rhythmically through a series of changing sequences and executed according to learned patterns. Reasons for learning to ring include:

- 🔔 Lifelong learning experience
- 🔔 Maintain a traditional skill
- 🔔 A contribution to church life
- 🔔 A pleasant and sociable recreation
- 🔔 A great mental workout
- 🔔 Friends around the world
- 🔔 Opportunity to visit amazing places

Ringers come from all walks of life and range in age from ten to those in their nineties!

## Recruitment

Recruitment of new ringers is best undertaken locally. A catalyst for recruiting a new team is to aim to ring for a special anniversary or national occasion about a year ahead. Creating a team spirit is important to keep a group together socially and for ringing long term. You may want to try a youth team or daytime training sessions for retired persons!

## Learning to Ring

Learning to ring is a long-term project. If you have nobody able to undertake safe basic training, our Branch Ringing Masters can help set it up for you. Allow on average about three months to reach a basic level of competence, although some will learn much faster or much slower and depending on how much practice they can get! Dependent on how far each person, or the team as a whole, wish to progress, they need never stop learning!

## Making Progress

Some towers become very proficient and attract ringers from other towers who want to make more progress. The Guild's branches also arrange regular practice sessions which allow a bigger gathering of talented ringers so they can advance themselves and pass on their skills to those wishing to make progress. Details of these practices are available on the Guild's website and individual branch websites.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE: [www.pdg.btck.co.uk/Events](http://www.pdg.btck.co.uk/Events)

## OUR CONTACTS (February 2020)

Please see the map on the back page for allocation of parishes to branches

<b>Branch</b>	<b>Steward</b>	<b>Ringing Master</b>
Culworth	David Kirkham 01327 860372	Ian Chapple 01280 850671
Daventry	Brian Foley 01327 341215	Gwynneth White 01604 831346
Guilsborough	Rob Palmer 07926 151811	David Westerman 01788 822598
Kettering	Andy Bimson 07816 787639	Helen Churchman <i>haitchc70@gmail.com</i>
Northampton	Contact team on 01604 459412	Giles Willson 01604 459412
Peterborough	Nick Elks 07961 916819	Hilary Hardie 01780 783855
Rutland	Ted Phillips <i>ted_uk@outlook.com</i>	Alan Ellis 07759 278459
Thrapston	Len Hallifax 01832 735029	Edward Buckby 01933 389567
Towcester	Jonathan Stuart 07860 255525	Alan Faiers
Wellingborough	Tim Samson 01933 402240	Kevan Chapman 01933 682657
<b>DIOCESE</b>	<b>John Beresford 01933 389177</b>	<b>Simon Dixon 01933 403855</b>

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES: [www.pdg.btck.co.uk/BranchOfficers](http://www.pdg.btck.co.uk/BranchOfficers)

# A map showing parishes in the Diocese and the Branches of the Diocesan Guild of Bellringers

