

A welcoming belfry – Inside and around the tower



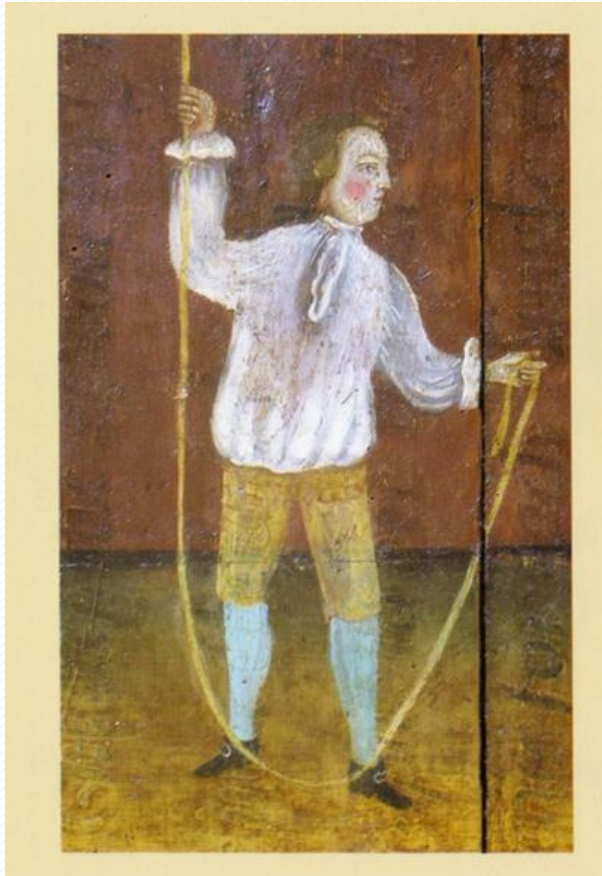
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MBE CEng CPhys FIET FInstP

Imagine taking up a new pastime!

- What would you expect?
- What do you find when ringing?
- What do others expect?
 - new and visiting ringers
 - non-ringing visitors, church members
 - neighbours, local community

Your expectations?



How well do we do?

Your expectations

- Information
- Transport, parking, direction signs
- Friendly and welcoming
- Well lit, warm, dry, clean facilities
- Challenging and fun
- Refreshment and washing facilities
- Equipment, clothing, other costs
- Training courses, awards
- Competent, qualified teachers
- Safety, standards.....

Four main aspects

- Tower environment and ringers
- Bells and tower organisation
- Bell owners and community
- External environment, neighbours

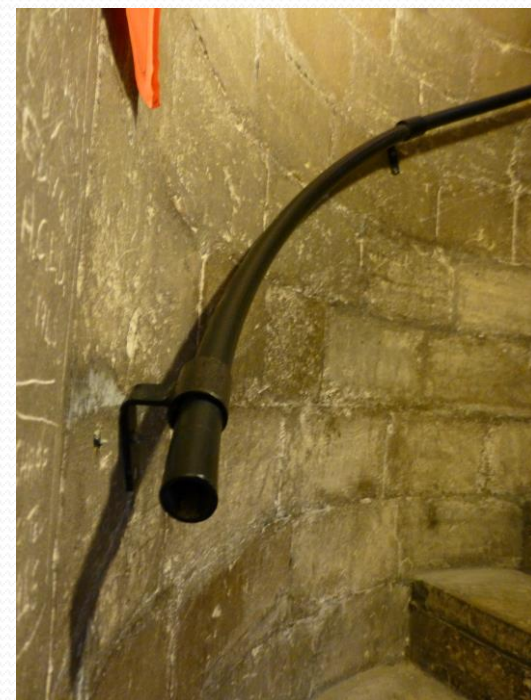
Our welcome?



Guildford - St Mary

First impressions count!

- **Information** - *ringing times, contact details visible in church (even when locked), website etc*
- **Access** - *parking, signage, lighting, safe paths and steps, stairs and handrails*
- **Who is who** – *clear roles*
- **Who does what** - *structured sessions*
- **Facilities** - *key holders and security, toilet, washing and kitchen facilities, meeting space*
- **People** – *friendly not grumpy!*



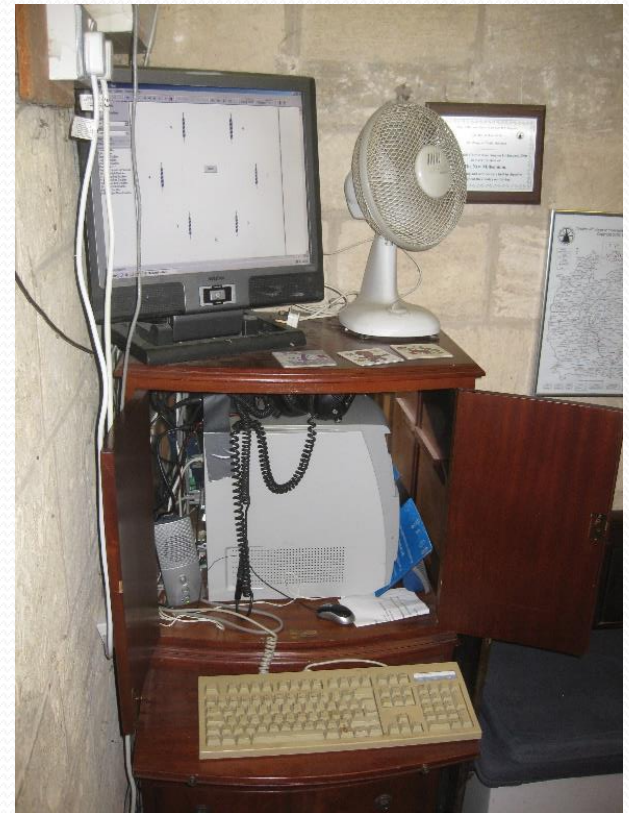
Facilities

- **Ringling room** - *Temperature, clean, tidy, well lit, suitable seating, coat hooks, storage space, safe and secure*
- *Recognise constraints and other users*



Additional facilities

- Teaching – *computer (DSE?), whiteboard, books, clapper ties*
- Handbells –
Tunes and changes
(hmm!?)



Kitchen facilities but?



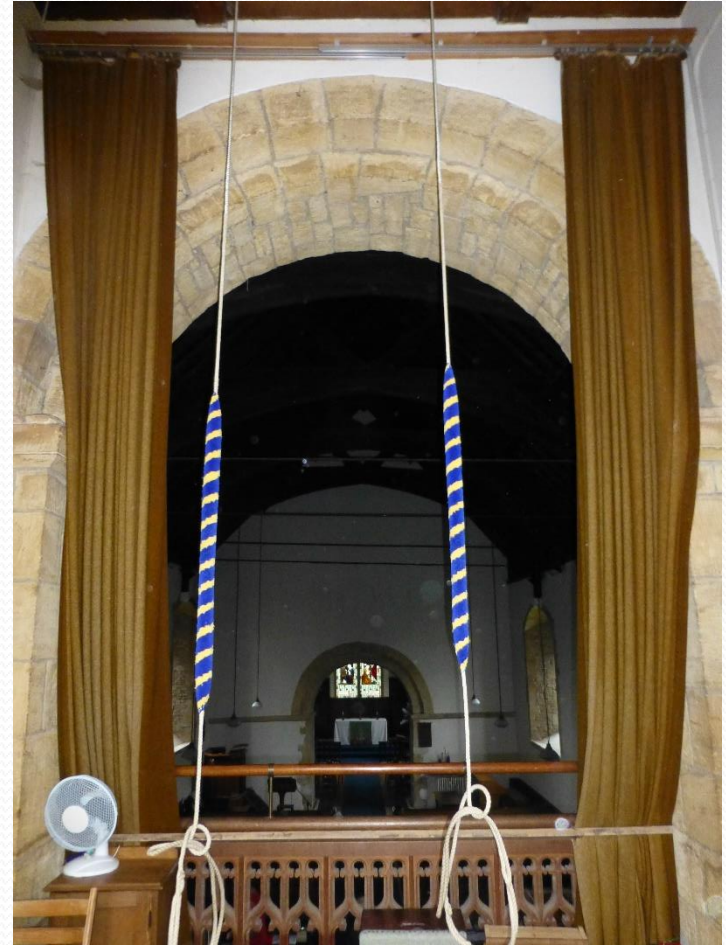
Stretton Grandison

“Ah! That nice big storage space upstairs” – says the Church warden!

St Mary Shrewsbury



Winter heating – how?



Lighting in case of a power cut?



Tunbridge Wells

Safe new ladder but

Langford (Oxfordshire)



Nice Bells?

Advise visitors and plan to fix

*"The trebles
are flighty"*

*"The 3rd slips
wheel"*

- "I can't hear the calls,
the bells are too loud"*

*"The stay on the
2nd is cracked"*



*"The 5th is
odd-struck"*

Upstairs and in the background

- **Technical inspection** - Regular competent maintenance, planned and recorded
- **Safety / risk assessments** – Inspections with records, insurance
- **Processes** - Safeguarding, GDPR with records, defined roles, responsibilities (involve Church Wardens)

Wider involvement

- **Tower organisation** – Committee (how are they appointed?), tower meetings, communication with members
- **Tower finances** – Treasurer, maintenance, socials etc. Wedding fees at least £200?
- **Social interactions** – outings, dinner, skittles, foundry visits, carillons, handbell concerts... Pub after practice, biscuits and chocolates!

Visiting other towers and welcoming other ringers

- Musicians don't walk into any rehearsal and expect to be invited to join in. Ringers do!
- **Extended ringing community** – Local ringing society, Central Council, ART, Ringing World, Bellboard

Integration with the church – incumbent and Wardens, PCC?

- *Services, weddings, funerals, church events, national events, church groups*



Shrivenham
“bell windows”

Community integration

- **Joint events and activities** - *With clergy and PCC, church schools, church groups (choir, scouts & guides, mothers & toddlers), ringers' service, magazine articles*
- **Profile** - *Tower / church website, church news sheets, regular and special ringing notified to local communities*

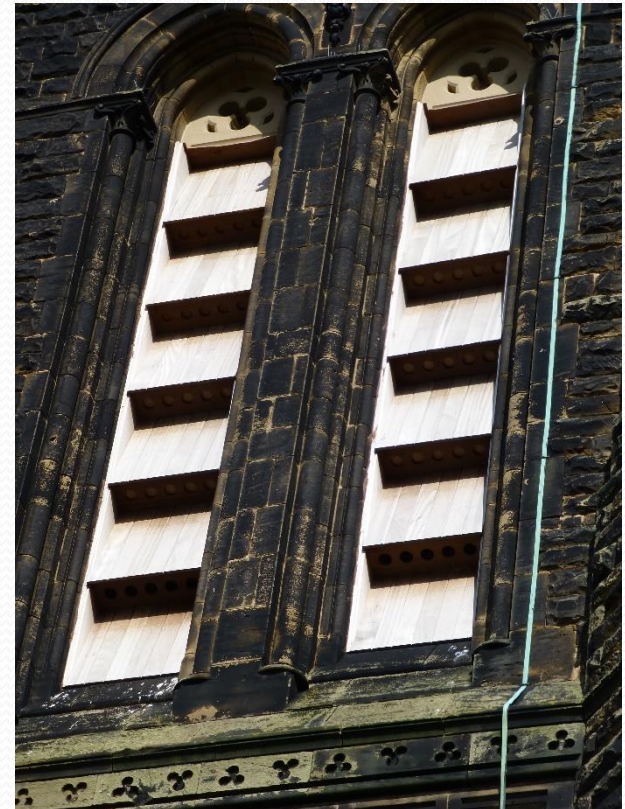


All open ringing is a public performance!

“Ringing has to be limited as it annoys the neighbours”

Noise nuisance is a matter
for Environmental health

- Louvre sound control
- Regular practices
- Ringing times publicised
- Good striking, homework!



Who can help?

- CCCBR Stewardship & Management Workgroup
- Workgroup members advise or suggest where professional help may be needed
- Ringing Societies
- Diocesan Bells Advisers
 - See CCCBR website